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NEW GENUINE EDITION.

THE NEW, AND COMPLETE Universal Letter-Writer:

OR,

Whole Art of General and Polite Correspondence.

Containing a GREAT VARIETY of Plain, Easy, Entertaining, and Familiar

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

On the most useful, Interesting, Important, and Instructive Subjects, and adapted for general Use and Benefit, by directing every Person to Indite Letters, without any other Assistance, on all the various Occasions of Life;

But more particularly on the following Heads, viz.

Adversity,	Diligence,	Happiness,	Morality,	Secrecy,
Advice,	Duty,	Honour,	Negligence,	Shame,
Affection,	Education,	Hope,	Passion,	Sobriety,
Ambition,	Emulation,	Humanity,	Patience,	Solitude,
Anger,	Excellence,	Indiscretion,	Peevishness,	Temptation,
Avarice,	Fame,	Indolence,	Piety,	Trade,
Benevolence,	Fidelity,	Integrity,	Pleasure,	Truth,
Business,	Flattery,	Industry,	Politeness,	Variety,
Censure,	Folly,	Justice,	Pride,	Vice,
Charity,	Friendship,	Learning,	Prodigality,	Virtue,
Confidence,	Fragility,	Love,	Prudence,	Understanding,
Condolence,	Generosity,	Marriage,	Reproof,	Wisdom,
Courtship,	Gratitude,	Modesty,	Religion,	Wit,
Dependence,	Guilt,	Moderation,	Retirement,	&c. &c. &c.

Including particularly, among this very extensive Variety,

LETTERS TO AND FROM PARENTS, CHILDREN,
BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND OTHER RELATIVES,

Adapted to all the VARIOUS OCCASIONS of LIFE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A Modern Collection of Genteel Complimentary Cards.

INCLUDING

General Instructions for carrying on Epistolary Correspondence, together with valuable Hints for Grammatical Correctness on all Occasions.

Also a TABLE of CONTENTS, to enable the Reader immediately to find out any particular Letter or Article wanted.

The Whole adapted to the Genius, Taste, and Manners of the Present Times.

BY HENRY HOGG, A. M.

AND

THE REV. GEORGE BROWN, A. M.

AUTHOR OF THE YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION.

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[Price only One Shilling—Embellished with an Elegant Frontispiece.]

..... 1800

PREFACE.

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LETTER-WRITING is an accomplishment whereof every one should be capable, though few can justly pretend to it. Ease, elegance, and brevity, which are the great essentials of Epistolary Writing can only be acquired by reading and practice; for which reason this new set of useful, entertaining and familiar Letters, upon all subjects most interesting, important, and instructive, is strongly recommended to the youth of both sexes.

We think ourselves entitled to a preference, as well on account of the price as on account of our improvements, and the originality of our letters, which have been written on purpose for this undertaking, and every subject that might corrupt the morals of young minds is carefully avoided; nor is it confined to the younger classes alone, there being many grown up persons of all occupations, professions, and degrees, who need in a great measure the assistance of this Letter Writer.

The subjects being for the most part domestic, are appropriated to all the various occurrences of human life, while the style is adapted with particular care to every respective occasion.



The Editors.

N. B. The Public may be assured all other Editions are spurious and incorrect.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

WRITING LETTERS:

BY WHICH,

AND THE FOLLOWING MODELS,

Any Person may be his own Letter-Writer,

AND BECOME MASTER OF

THE EPISTOLARY STYLE.

THE great art of Letter-Writing consists in an accurate knowledge of the subject, and the circumstances of the person to whom we address ourselves.—The man of study will never be destitute of matter, and all mankind are considered as thoughtful, intelligent beings.

In all letters let truth be the principal object in view; let no falsehood be inserted, and then there can be no inconsistency. If the letter is to contain an accusation of the conduct of a young person, let it be written in tenderness; for if otherwise, it will never be attended with any beneficial consequences. If on business in the mercantile world, let every thing be so clear, as not to admit of a doubt when you come to settle accounts. This will prevent many anxieties which often take place in families, and secure a part of the property which is often squandered away in suits at law. In love and courtship, unless sincerity take place, no happiness can be expected: let a love-letter contain the language of the heart, and let that heart contain nothing but what is innocent. In real friendship the heart will direct the pen, and sentiments unthought of before will flow copiously. A good heart will regulate the conduct; it will afford matter of epistolary correspondence; every thing will flow with elegance: and while the writer improves his own rational faculties, he will, by attending to these rules, instruct and entertain his correspondents. The following rules are so easy, that any person attending to them will never write

GENUINE EDIT.

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with

with impropriety; and all that can be added is, Grammar must be attended to, and likewise the perusal of the letters in *this* work.

1. When writing to your superiors, be not prolix, but let your letter be as short as the subject will admit, particularly wherein favors are requested. Make use of no contractions, as *can't won't*, &c. &c. as they appear both disrespectful and too familiar—be not over pompous in your style, but convey your thoughts with ease and perspicuity, as well to your equals as your superiors.

2. Postscripts should be avoided as much as possible; especially complimentary postscripts to any of the person's family or relations to whom you write, as it shews disrespect in neglecting such persons in the body of your Letter.

3. Avoid blots and interlineations; the latter especially in letters to superiors.

4. Begin every fresh or new paragraph with a capital, and at the same distance from the left-hand margin of the paper as when you began the subject of your letter, always remembering to make your proper stops, in order that the sense and meaning of your letter may be perfectly conceived by the reader.

5. Conclude your letter with the same address as you began—as *Madam—Sir—My Lord—My Lady*, &c.—*Your most obliged and obedient Servant—or, Your very humble Servant—My dear Sir*, &c.

6. Never fold up your letter without carefully reading it over *first*.

7. Be as neat as possible in folding it up—*letters* must always be in the usual form; *notes* may be in a triangular or diamond manner.

8. Letters should be written on quarto; notes (which should be as brief as possible) in octavo longways.

9. In the address be as particular, but brief as need be—never use *To* or *For*, for every letter-carrier knows the meaning of a superscription.—If the letter be to a person of distinction, write no *number*, but the name and place of residence, as

His Grace the Duke of Bedford,

Bloomsbury-Square.

In other superscriptions where the No. is necessary, write it at the left-hand corner.

10. Never omit affixing the date of the month and the year to *letters*, and day of the week (and the hour if you please) to *notes*.

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AND ENTERTAINING OCCURRENCES IN LIFE :

On an Entire New Plan.

LETTERS RELATIVE TO EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, &c.

From a Friend to Another in the Country.

DEAR SIR,

EMBOLDENED by the many protestations of friendship which you have been so kind to make, I take the liberty of humbly requesting you will be so kind to devote the first convenient day you have in seeking a proper school for my eldest son; it being my duty, I think, to put him under the care of a good preceptor; for, as he is now capable of spelling and reading decently, of course he wants the instructions of a *master*, not of a *mistress*. I wish him, if possible, to be near you, that I may frequently have the pleasure of hearing a real account of the progress which he makes. Your compliance with the above will be a considerable addition to all former obligations, and render me

Your much obliged servant, THO. BROWNE.

Answer to the above.

DEAR SIR,

ACCORDING to your request, I made every necessary enquiry, and am happy to inform you, that within two miles of my residence there is a gentleman of the church, who keeps a school, bears a most excellent character; his attention to the young gentlemen under his care is remarkable—his terms are moderate—and his mode of teaching universally approved of; he wisely endeavours to render

GENUINE EDIT.

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the arduous task of learning more a pleasure than a toil: corrects with gentleness the several errors of forward dispositions; and instils such noble principles in their young minds, that, as they improve in years, grow up with them. His first and general care is, in making them write letters with ease and elegance—this he does by putting the LETTER WRITER into their hands, and making each establish a correspondence with another while a certain day in the week is appropriated for examining their epistles, and every due encouragement given to such as excel in their productions. Should it please my friend to send his son to this school, he may depend upon my constant visits to see him, and a faithful communication of what progress he makes. I shall also endeavour to render the young gentleman's holidays as agreeable to him as possible; and, by shewing my affection for the son, prove how much I am his father's

Most obedient, &c. JAMES WILSON.

The Father's Reply, returning Thanks.

IMRESSED with a just sense of my dear friend's goodness and benevolence, I really feel, but cannot possibly express how much I am indebted to him. Accept my thanks for the kind care and assiduity you have manifested in complying with my requests; and, believe me, that from the great recommendation you have given of the school, I shall not only prefer it to any other, but send my son there without further loss of time.

Yours sincerely, &c.

From a Lady to her Friend in the Country.

MY dear friend will, I hope, excuse the task I am about imposing upon her, when she considers the necessity of the business—My daughter, Harriot, is now arrived to an age, that is not only the most capable of acquiring, but also of retaining instructions. I think it the duty of all fond mothers, according to the best of their abilities, to give their daughters a good education. A young lady possessed of those desirable accomplishments, which can only be derived from proper governesses, needs no further qualification to encounter the vicissitudes of life. I request, then, you will make a speedy application to your neighbour, Mrs. —. I wish to know her terms for teaching dancing, music, English, French, and especially all manner of needle-work; for, though Harriet will be mistress of a good fortune, it is, notwithstanding, indisputably necessary, that a young lady should know the proper use of her needle. I shall

shall wait with the utmost impatience for my friend's answer, and mean time remain Her's affectionately, &c.

SOPHIA STUBBS.

Answer to the foregoing.

AGREEABLE to my friend's request, I have applied to my neighbour, who keeps the boarding school. I have inclosed her card, which contains her terms and the rules of her school. I approve highly of your intention, and doubt not but Harriot herself, when she becomes sensible of your goodness, will be grateful for it. I am surpris'd you should think the task of friendship any trouble—for the future, then, instead of requesting—command the services of
Your's most sincerely, &c. MARY JONES.

Reply to the above.

MY DEAR MARY,

THE lady's terms being exceeding moderate, and the rules of the school corresponding entirely with my wishes, I do not hesitate in sending her my dear girl immediately; assured, from the great encouragement which your polite favour has given me, that Harriot, during our separation, will, every opportunity, find a second mother in her mother's dear friend. Yours most gratefully, &c.

From a Son to his Father.

DEAR AND MOST WORTHY SIR,

THIS being the day appointed by my master for epistle-writing, and left to my choice of addressing whom I pleased, I could not possibly forbear availing myself of the first opportunity to enquire after my dear father's health—and also to express the satisfaction and pleasure I feel in my present situation; for my master is so good, that he indulges me with many hours of recreation, and I make no doubt but I shall profit so much by his great care and instructions, as to be shortly able to give ample specimens that no attention is wanting on my part. I am, dear father,
Your most dutiful son, JOSEPH MAN.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR BOY,

I CANNOT possibly express the great satisfaction I felt while reading your affectionate letter. You have given me great proofs already of your attention, nor shall your present assiduity be unrewarded; for I have herewith writ-

ten to my friend to increase your pocket-money. I am happy that you take so much pleasure in learning, this being the time for improvement. They repent generally all their lives, who neglect such studies in their early days. Youth is never to be redeemed. Continue then, my dear son, to mind your book, and observe your master's precepts, for your present labour will make ample compensation hereafter, and you shall always find me

Your affectionate father,

JOSEPH MAN.

From the Son to the Father, requesting Leave to see him.

DEAR AND HONORED SIR,

TO-MORROW being the day appointed for our breaking-up for the holidays, I should be happy, if it were agreeable to you, to spend the vacation at home, as I feel a strong inclination to see my dear father and mother again, my sister, and other loving relations. Should my request meet with your approbation, since my master has referred me to you, I shall prepare for my journey early in the week, when I hope personally to declare myself

Your dutiful son,

JOSEPH MAN.

Answer to the above.

MY DEAR BOY,

JUST on the receipt of your letter, your mother and I, after some serious consideration, had resolved to write to your master, respecting the request you have made. I am happy to find that it is agreeable to him, for, believe me, we are as eager to see you, as you can possibly be to see us. I admire your wish, as it is the result of filial affection; therefore, as soon as possible, prepare for your journey; mean while, believe me to be

Your affectionate father, &c.

JOSEPH MAN.

From a Daughter to her Mother.

MY DEAR MAMMA,

I Have seized the earliest opportunity of returning sincere thanks for this evident assurance of maternal affection, in placing me under the care of a worthy woman, who often reminds me of my dear mamma, by her motherly affection. It is impossible to overlook her instructions, she takes such gentle means of giving them. I want nothing to make me completely happy, except your good presence; but as I know it is for my good, I endeavour to reconcile myself to

our separation; the time I hope will shortly come, when I shall see my dear mamma, and declare myself in person
Her most dutiful daughter, &c.

The Mother's Answer.

DEAREST HARRIOT,

YOUR letter gave me inexpressible happiness, as every line evidently proceeded from the heart. I rejoice to hear, by letters from my friend, that you make a rapid progress in your French. You pay uncommon attention, I understand, to your grammar, which gives me no little satisfaction; for I assure you, Harriot, nothing redounds more to the credit of a young lady, than writing and speaking correctly;—how many of our sex expose themselves, by corrupt phrases and false concords! I would not that my child should be pedantic and over-nice:—it is a mistaken notion to think that learning in *our* sex is always united with stiff pedantry—they are ignorant and vain, who make a boast of their qualifications; and it is those who pretend to most that are generally endued with the least understanding; never, my dear Harriot, affect superiority of knowledge; let your style be always plain and familiar, but exempt from vulgarisms; never make use of a word you do not perfectly understand. I have often blushed for many a young lady, nay, many of the other sex too, who have introduced expressions quite foreign to their intended meaning;—this downright ignorance proceeds from downright arrogance: I dare say my dear Harriot, knowing what an enemy I am to repetitions, will now turn critic, and find fault with my *downrights*:—but take notice, that when a repetition enforces an assertion, it is then, instead of being a fault, deemed a beauty; there are many tautologies in our poets, which, in a great measure, add to their force and energy. I am proud to find my dear Harriot so correct in her spelling; there is nothing dignifies a female letter more than this attention; a young lady should always have her dictionary near her, and never commit a word to paper that she entertains the least doubt of. It has been remarked by some conceited, empty fools, that good spelling is not to be expected from the pens of young ladies; and why not? Do you not, my dear child, feel this declaration as an insult to *our* understanding? are we not endued with the same capability of acquiring learning as a man? are we not equally docile, and shall we not be equally improved?—if every female felt this saying as I do, they would be stimulated.

mulated to prove it absurd and false; they would apply themselves more to study, and convince the world, that a *Smith* can wait as well as a *Cumberland*—a *Robinson*—or *Inchbald*;—as correct as a *Burgoyne*. I need not add more to convince my dear Harriot of the utility of learning. I hope she will make herself mistress of her own language, before she attempts to learn another, for it is too often the case that a young lady will begin French before she knows English; and young gentlemen as frequently attempt Latin, before they can read the Bible; in like manner, Greek before they are acquainted with the Latin rudiments;—the fatal consequence is, that when they leave their studies, they are ignorant of all! I hope to surprize my dear Harriot shortly, by paying her an unexpected visit, and giving her an agreeable present, to prove myself

Her affectionate mother, &c.

From a Tradesman to his Son at School.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

AS you are now arrived to an age of discernment, I hope you will not mis-spence the most precious part of your life, and neglect those necessary means which must qualify you to become a useful citizen. Let me know whatever business your inclination leads you to, and I shall look out immediately for a proper master; but before you become apprenticed, it behoves you to be very diligent—you should read with propriety, write well, and understand accounts perfectly—pay particular attention to your spelling and arithmetic. I desire an answer to this, by return of post, without being either previously read or corrected by your master, that I may thereby judge of the progress you are making. I am your affectionate father.

The Son's Answer,

DEAR AND HONORED SIR.

IN obedience to your requests, you may depend upon my diligence and attention, it being the chief of my ambition to be bound as soon as possible, and become a man of business. I confess myself partial to the employments of a Bookseller and Stationer: should my father endeavour to procure such a master for me, I would strain every nerve to render myself a worthy apprentice, and, as duty demands, a grateful son.

The Father to his Son, when bound.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

AS I have now satisfied your wish, in procuring you the desired master, I hope you will be mindful of the advice I gave you the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you. Consider, your future prosperity depends upon your present attention: think no more of play, but devote your mind to business; in short, lose the boy in becoming the man; be obedient to all your master's commands, follow his advice and example, and I make no doubt but you will become a worthy and respectable citizen. I remain, your affectionate father.

The Son's Answer.

DEAREST SIR,

I Should be both wanting in duty and gratitude if I neglected your advice. I have no reason to complain. You have put me to a business I admire; and my master is as indulgent as my father. I am conscious of the necessity of my obedience and attention, and hope I shall never be deficient in either. I am, dearest sir, your dutiful son,

From a Preceptor to his Scholar, during Vacation Time.

DEAR CHARLES,

I Am unwilling to omit the first opportunity that offered, of commencing a correspondence with my young friend, for fear, during this leisure time, the advice I have given, and the rules I have set down, in respect to writing letters, may be either forgotten or neglected. I think it my duty, therefore, to remind you of these observations, and by insisting on regular answers, oblige you to practise, as well as to observe. You may remember that my first advice was to be careful of your spelling, and not to make use of pompous language in addressing your friends; a simplicity of style always recommends itself, and displays far more learning than rhapsodical bombast: be also as brief as possible, for a prolix writer exhausts the patience of his reader. Avoid repetitions, for they offend the ear; except they are *artfully* introduced, to mark some *artful* point. I disapprove of parentheses (*except they are absolutely necessary*), for they generally create confusion; some masters are very fond of recommending long s's, and appropriating the round one to the final letter of a word; but I abominate a practice that has no meaning; a long s in writing, I think very disagreeably to the eye, except when two meet, then I think

think it proper to make a distinction between them. Never send a letter to any one with an interlineation; it is an affront, for it betokens both laziness and carelessness; there is no excuse for an interlineation, except it is a piece which you wish to prove an original; and of which there should be no duplicate. Avoid capital letters, which should only be appropriated to proper names, or particular nouns. When you introduce a word which requires more than common notice, or on which the reader should lay a great accent, put a *dash* under it *with your pen*: such words, when printed, are put in *Italics*; but do not be too fond of this, for I have known many puzzled by these dashes, which have frequently intimated wit where there was none. Never let me see you write *you was*, or I shall deny *you were* ever a pupil of mine. Be attentive to the time, and do not jumble the present, past, and future, as many writers do. Use the conditional mood, provided the sentence *be* conditional; this, I confess, is not a general observation, but if a man *pretend* to write, he ought to be correct. Do not crowd us with monosyllables, for they are very insignificant creatures, nor use many long words, for fear you may exceed comprehension. I hate particles, when they are avoidable; be, therefore, sparing in your *fors*, your *buts*, and *ands*. Quotations, when not made too common, display both a variety and some knowledge of authors; but beware of misapplying them, for you not only insult the author you borrow from, but expose yourself to ridicule. Do not arrogate the power of making words, for we have sufficient in our language to express our meaning, and there are very few who possess competent abilities for the task. Avoid *cant* and obsolete phrases; nor insert a word that you do not perfectly comprehend. These hints, I hope, will be sufficient; let me, therefore, see they are observed, while I remain, with compliments to your father,

Your sincere friend,

The Scholar's Answer to his Master.

HONORED SIR,

I Return you sincere thanks for the kind attention which you shew. It shall always be my study and ambition to follow your instructions. I have never, to my knowledge, made use of a word that I did not perfectly comprehend. I know "A little learning is a dangerous thing;" and as I am resolved not to *taste*, but *drink deep*, I shall pay every due attention to my master's precepts. My father desires to
be

be remembered to you, and my mother (though forgotten in your letter) joins me in compliments. I remain, with all due respect,
Your very obliged servant,

A Reply to the above.

DEAR CHARLES,

I Am exceedingly well pleased with the specimen you have given of your attention. Your letter is neatly written—properly pointed—brief and sufficient. I am please to find, that without disgracing your author, you *can* introduce a quotation, and I am now sensible you know where Italics are proper. Your parentheses too was absolutely necessary, being a just reproof for my neglect. I am, with compliments to your father and mother,

Your sincere friend, &c.

From a Brother to his Sister.

MY DEAR SISTER,

IT is now full three weeks since I have heard from you, during which time I have been in anxious expectation of a letter. Surely you must be convinced that this silence gives great uneasiness; how have I deserved it? is it possible I can be so soon forgotten? can you not spare a few minutes out of four-and-twenty hours, to let me know how you are? I could not suppose the pleasures of the town, let them be ever so engaging, could deny now-and-then an opportunity; believe me, I am exceeding angry; you are totally indifferent about me: if you wish me to change this opinion, and forgive your neglect, let me hear from you immediately; for, I assure you, I am still,

Your affectionate brother,

The Sister's Answer.

MY dear brother's letter was exceedingly unkind, for neither indifference nor neglect was the cause of my silence.—I am just recovered from a very severe illness, which rendered me incapable of answering your letter; I was unwilling that any other person should write to you, for fear the account of my indisposition might give you such uneasiness as would intrude upon your business. It is not in the power of all the pleasures of this life to make me forget an affectionate brother; but I assure you I partake of very few, as I do not think it prudent for any single female, like me, to be too often in the circles of the gay. As I now hope I have sufficiently pleaded my excuse, I shall expect

expect another letter very soon, in more grateful terms, for believe me, that I am still, and ever will remain,

Your loving sister.

From a Son, at school, to his Father.

MY DEAREST FATHER,

OUR examinations are fixed for the ensuing Monday, when, if it be agreeable, as several ladies and gentlemen, I understand, are to be present, I shall be happy to see you, for I am very sure that the company of my dear father will give me so much encouragement, that I shall consequently get the premium. I have taken great pains in preparing myself, and make very little doubt but I shall gain the prize. I am, honoured sir, your dutiful son, &c.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR RICHARD,

I Confess I should be exceedingly happy to be present at your examinations, but my business in the city puts it totally out of my power. I rejoice to hear that you have been so studious in preparing yourself: but do not make too sure of success: consider, your antagonists may be equally clever and brilliant. Were you the *only* good scholar, the premium will do you but little credit. If you win it, the information will give me much pleasure; but if you lose it, instead of being discouraged, rather pluck up your spirits; seem not to envy your happier rival, but, stimulated by noble emulation, enter into a bold resolution of becoming doubly attentive and diligent, in order to be more successful on a future essay. I shall wait with impatience to hear your success, till when, I remain Your affectionate father,

The Son, in Reply.

DEAREST SIR,

I Never wrote to you with less pleasure or satisfaction, having lost the premium, owing to my ill fortune—one of my class being deemed an equal competitor for the prize; and the person who examined us, being, on account of our similar answering, incapable of making any decision. After a long contest, it was at last agreed, that we should *cut* for it: I was unfortunate; but, concealing my anxiety with a smile, which I confess was borrowed, I wished my friend joy of his success. All the consolation which I now enjoy is, that I have not lost the premium, though I have not won it. The assembly of ladies and gentlemen who were present

present, seemed to be delighted with our examination, and, though not a complete victor, I had the satisfaction of receiving many compliments. According to your instructions, I have conquered all jealousy, hoping a future opportunity will reward my constant labour.

I am, dear father, yours most dutifully.

The Father in Reply.

MY DEAR BOY,

I Congratulate you upon your great success, for I look upon you equally triumphant as your rival. I disapprove very much of the usual method of allotting single premiums; for, I think, in such case, the master should allow two, as no parent. I am sure, would grudge an advanced price for the sake of rewarding his son's merit—however, as I think encouragement is necessary, I have herewith sent you a gold watch, the fittest present, in my opinion, for a youth, as it will inform him how fleeting, and, consequently, how precious, time is. I am happy to find this laudable ambition of acquiring learning thus early, taking such deep root within your heart; be assured that your labour now will amply compensate itself hereafter.

I remain, dear son, your affectionate father.

From a Daughter to her Mother.

MY dear mamma will, I hope, forgive this complaint, when I secretly inform her of the cause—though I confess myself frequently negligent, yet my governess's severity discomposes me in such a manner, that I am really incapable of attending to my work. I am frequently deprived of my breakfast—sometimes of my dinner—and have often supperless gone to bed, because I have not drank large basons of camomile tea, which is so exceeding obnoxious to me. If my dear mamma would remove me to another school, or prevail upon my governess to moderate her cruelty, my future conduct, I hope, will prove me

A dutiful daughter,

The Mother's Answer.

DEAR SALLY,

THE cause of complaint is ample excuse for your writing. I wish my dear girl had been earlier in her communication, for I should deem myself more cruel than your governess, did I connive at such unwarrantable usage—You shall leave the school immediately. I am

Your affectionate mother.

From

From a Father to a Schoolmistress.

MADAM,

I Think it my duty to inform you, that my daughter shall not return to your school any more; during her stay with you, she has been cruelly alarmed, I find, with superstitious notions of spirits and hobgoblins; than which nothing can be more pernicious to Infant minds, having been the frequent cause of growing fits and hysterics, as well as the death of many. I wonder people, who pretend to teach and instruct, can prove themselves so weak and ignorant.

I am, Madam, yours, &c.

LETTERS ON BUSINESS, FAMILY AFFAIRS, &c.

From an Apprentice to his Father.

HONORED SIR,

AS I know the great satisfaction it will yield to my dear honored father, to hear how very much I approve of the business I am about learning, I embrace the first opportunity of writing. My master is an honest, pious, and most worthy character; the family seem to follow his example, by preserving the greatest order and regularity; he both encourages and seems pleased with my performance; in short, I never was so happy—and if my dear father will let me hear from him constantly, it will complete the felicity of his

Dutiful son,

From the Father in Answer.

DEAR FRANK,

YOUR approbation both of your master and business has given me great satisfaction; and I think it my duty to admonish you to industry and sobriety, as these qualifications are most essential for a man of business; be very careful whose company you keep, for “ Evil communications corrupt good manners;” be also attentive to the economy of your domestic affairs, and do not waste the money that I allow you: these hints, I hope, will be of service, and whenever you want advice, do not fail in writing to

Your affectionate father,

From a Father to an Idle Son.

DEAR GEORGE,

I AM very sorry to hear that you are idle and negligent, and, notwithstanding the mild admonitions of your master,

pay

pay no attention to your business; this is a very ungrateful return for all the trouble I have had with you, and the pains I have taken to settle you in the world. I fear you associate with some improper friends, whom, too late, you may find your enemies. Oh, my dear boy, do not aspire to begin life before you have acquired the means of living. I hope this short reproof (for I will not dwell too long upon a disagreeable theme) will convince you of your error, and that you will cease to give further uneasiness to

Your fond father.

The Son's Answer.

HONORED SIR,

I FEAR the frailties of my youth, for, like other boys, I confess I am not without my share, have been sadly misrepresented and cruelly exaggerated to my dear father, as well as to my master, by those idle gossips who, having no business of their own to heed, spend their time in venting calumny, and destroying the reputation of their neighbours. My future conduct, I hope, will convince both my father and master, that I have been in a great measure abused, and that I am not only a faithful servant, but A dutiful son,

From a Master to his Apprentice's Father.

DEAR SIR,

I AM exceedingly grieved to be under the necessity of writing to you upon so unpleasant a theme; but I should think myself very much to blame were I silent on this urgent occasion—Your son, I am sorry to inform you, does no good, and what I am still more sorry to add, I fear will do harm, both to his own and family's reputation. I have discovered a very unhappy connection between him and a female of bad character. As such evils have frequently terminated in the ruin of many young men, I seize the earliest opportunity of exhorting you to remedy it in time, and am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

From an Uncle to his Nephew.

DEAR TOM,

YOU recollect, I hope, that I bound you apprentice to an attorney, and gave the round sum of an hundred guineas with you:—how came it then, that by mere accident, being obliged to accompany a friend to a private play, where King Lear was attempted, I perceived my own foolish nephew in the character of poor Tom, indeed!—Just before

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your

your appearance I was abusing these young men, for thus mis-spending their time, and saying to my friend, that I was sure *my* nephew was now employing himself with his parchments, or making out an indenture; but soon my eyes convinced my thoughts that they were erroneous! I was sorry for it, knowing that such step has been the ruin of many young persons. A man who has been neglected by his friends and relations, and bred to no profession, is excusable for attempting the stage, and, should he succeed, is no disgrace to society; or, if he fail in business, and have abilities for an actor, he is not to be censured; but for an apprentice to abuse his time, and desert a genteel employment, for a precarious situation, too oft disgraces himself and all his family! I suppose, by-and-by, your inclination for the stage will lead you to disoblige your uncle, desert your master, neglect your business and shame your relations, by making a *buffoon* of yourself;—to prevent which, I think it my duty to give you my real opinion, without any *flattery*, of your performance of Edgar—to be candid then, nay, to be sincere, I never saw such a miserable attempt in all my life!—I could hardly keep my seat with vexation, to see any man in his senses perform a *madman* so ill! Did not you hear somebody hiss you?—It was your uncle! I thought it my duty, nor could I, indeed, forbear shewing my disapprobation; and I assure you, nephew, if ever I see or hear of your murdering any other character again, even in this *private* manner, I will solicit a magistrate to send you to bridewell; for you have not the least pretension to theatrical merit.

I am your sincere friend.

From a young Merchant to a Wholesale Dealer.

SIR,

BY the recommendation of a neighbour, who has expatiated much upon your character, I think proper, while commencing business, to make application to you, requesting you will send me a proper quantity of things for a young beginner, of the best quality, and on the most reasonable terms, which I think myself entitled to, as all our dealings, I intend, shall be for ready money, I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

From the Wholesale Dealer in Answer.

SIR,

IN answer to your favor of the 6th instant, I shall, by tomorrow's coach, send you a few articles, which I shall submit as a specimen of both the quality and cheapness of all my

my things—should it be your pleasure to repeat your order, I shall endeavour to prove myself deserving of your favor, I am; with sincere wishes for your success,

Your obliged servant.

From a Tradesmen to another for Money.

SIR,

HAVING an unexpected bill to make up, and being at present deficient in money, I take the liberty of troubling you for the small balance of accounts which is at present between us. If it should not be convenient to let me have the whole, a part, at this critical juncture, will exceedingly oblige

Your very humble servant.

The Answer.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request, I have enclosed an order, payable at sight, for the full balance which remains due to Mr. Tradewel, Cheapside, who will deliver either it or the cash, upon receiving your receipt for the same. I request, for the future, that you will give me proper notice, when you wish payment to be made.

Yours, &c.

From a Retail Dealer to a Wholesale one.

SIR,

AS it behoves me, as well as every one else in business, to be very particular in respect to the goodness of their commodities, I am sorry to inform you, that the last articles I received from your house by no means correspond with my wishes, and if you do not, for the future, let me have prime goods, regard for my reputation will oblige me to apply elsewhere. I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

An Answer to the above.

SIR,

I Am exceedingly sorry, through the mistake of my journeyman, you should have any cause for complaint; but, as I intend, for the future, to oversee all the articles you may hereafter require made up, before they are sent, you may depend upon receiving the very best. A proper abatement shall be made on the former goods delivered,

I am, sir,

Your obliged servant.

From Wholesale Dealers to a Retail one.

SIR,

WE are exceedingly sorry to be under the necessity of becoming now urgent, but as you are very backward in your remittances, and our profits so small on the goods we have sent you, we expect an immediate draft, or order, for the sum which is so long due, otherwise we shall be obliged to take such measures as must prove very disagreeable to you, and are, sir, Your humble servants.

An Answer to the foregoing.

GENTLEMEN,

THE unexpected and severe losses which I have felt, have been, I assure you, the sole cause of my being thus remiss—I humbly acknowledge your lenity, and request you will take my bill at two months date, money being, at this time, very scarce, and my debtors exceedingly tardy in their payments. Should this be agreeable, you may depend upon my punctuality for the future, as I now intend to enter into a resolution of giving no credit. I am, with sincere thanks for your late goodness, gentlemen,

Your obliged servant.

A Reply to the above Answer.

SIR,

WE should be exceedingly sorry to distress any one, knowing the ill-consequence of being distressed ourselves: we have, therefore, sent a bill for your acceptance at three, instead of two months date; by which time, we sincerely hope, you may surmount all your difficulties. We remain, sir, Your humble servants.

From a Tradesman to a Relation.

DEAR SIR,

KNOWING the good-nature and urbanity of your disposition, I take the liberty of revealing my present distress; flattering myself I shall experience that benevolence which I have hitherto done.—My circumstances are, at present, embarrassed, and, if I do not immediately procure the sum of £.500 I must inevitably fail in business. You know the value of my stock, and likewise my expectancies; it, therefore, you could oblige me with the above sum, payable at three, six, nine, and twelve months, at £.125 each, you will not only save me from ruin, but

Exceedingly oblige your distressed cousin, &c.

The

The Relation's Answer.

MY DEAR JACK,

AS I think it a pity that honesty and industry should ever suffer, come and dine with me to-morrow, and the money shall be ready. I entertain so good an opinion of your principles, that I am determined to take no bills at those short dates; but, for I know your disposition, if you will urge security, I shall only desire your note, on demand, for the whole: and, depend upon it, I never will demand it till I know it is perfectly convenient. Do not keep my dinner waiting, which will be ready at two o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

WILL GENEROUS.

From a Tradesman to another.

SIR,

I AM exceedingly displeased to find your bill for £.80 returned. I have found it very inconvenient to take it up, and am surprized that you should be so indifferent about your character, as neither to provide for it, or forewarn me of your incapability. You may remember, sir, that I gave you your own time, which I always do, in order to prevent disappointments. I must confess that you have used me very ill, and, if the bill be not taken up within six days, I shall put it into an attorney's hands.

Yours.

The Answer to the foregoing.

SIR,

I Assure you I had left out the money for my note, in four twenty pound bank bills, being obliged to leave town on some urgent business. On my return, I found my man had robbed me of several articles, and your letter convinces me that he has made off with the cash. As I shall take care mention shall be made of it in the papers, my character, I hope, will still be preserved. If your man will be so kind to call this evening with the bill, it shall be taken up.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

Reply to the foregoing Answer.

SIR,

I Am exceedingly concerned for your misfortune, and have explained the business to the gentleman [who returned your bill. According to your request, I have sent it herewith, by my man, hoping you will excuse any hasty expression which I might have been guilty of in my former letter,

Yours sincerely,

From a Tradesman to a Friend.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

ENCOURAGED by your repeated profession of friendship, I take the liberty of soliciting your assistance, presuming, as you had such amazing luck at cards, last Monday, at my house, you will be so kind as to lend me the small sum of one hundred pounds; the money I want immediately, having unfortunately lent my name to a person who has used me ill, and left me to answer it. I am, yours sincerely.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOUR situation gives me great uneasiness, particularly as it is totally out of my power to comply; for the money which I won at your house last Monday, I may lose this evening at my Lord Riot's. I am, with great concern for your loss,

Your humble servant.

From the Tradesman to another Friend.

SIR,

MY sister, for whom you have professed such esteem, has, knowing the great necessity I have for an hundred pounds, prevailed upon me to make immediate application to you, well knowing the sincerity of your professions and the urbanity of your disposition; the money shall be returned next week. I am, sir, your very humble servant.

The Friend's Apology.

SIR,

I Am very sorry, on your sister's account, that I cannot possibly comply with your request; your embarrassment does not in the least surprize me; it is what I expected, on account of the unmeaning splendid extravagance which I have witnessed at your house. I have frequently taken the liberty of hinting to your sister, that it did not become a young tradesman to spend so much in entertainments, but I am sorry to find my advice was not taken.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

From a Country Tradesman to a London Dealer.

SIR,

HAVING met with an unforeseen loss, by the bankruptcy of a chief creditor, and finding, by my accounts, that the note I last gave you will be due on Monday next, as it will be out of my power to answer it then, I humbly request your indulgence to renew it for twenty-one days, when

when you may depend upon its being faithfully taken up, and all future bills punctually paid. Your answer will greatly oblige,
Sir, your humble servant.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Regret exceedingly, that you had not given me the notice contained in your last favour, having parted with your note a few days ago. Your late punctuality convinces me that it must be an unforeseen disappointment indeed, which has occasioned this application. I have, therefore, sent you a draft for the sum of your bill, payable at sight, in order to enable you to answer it, and keep up your credit; for which, please to send me another bill, at whatever date you think will be sure and convenient, for, believe me, I had rather have a good bill at six months date, than a doubtful one at three weeks. I am, sir, Your humble servant,

From a Merchant's Clerk to his Master.

SIR,

PRESUMING your delay in the country is owing to some unexpected business, I think it my duty to enquire after your health; at the same to inform you, that all due attention and care are paid to your commercial concerns at home. If, therefore, your absence be productive of any advantage, I assure you, that your stay will be very safe, notwithstanding your return is anxiously desired by, sir,
Your faithful servant.

From the Master to his Clerk.

MR. STEADY,

YOUR conjectures have been very just; as unexpected events have procrastinated my departure from this; however, I am convinced of your fidelity and care. I am, thank God, in good health, and hope shortly to set off for town.
Yours. &c.

From a Tenant to a Landlord.

SIR,

A Loss, very recent and unexpected, obliges me to request your indulgence with respect to a half year's rent, due last Lady-day, till the ensuing quarter, when you may depend upon the whole being faithfully discharged by, sir,
Your very humble servant.

From a Tradesman to a Friend.

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Your humble servant.

From the Tradesman to another Friend.

SIR,

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The Friend's Apology.

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I am, sir, your humble servant.

From a Country Tradesman to a London Dealer.

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Sir, your humble servant.

The Answer.

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Your faithful servant.

From the Master to his Clerk.

MR. STEADY,

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Yours. &c.

From a Tenant to a Landlord.

SIR,

A Loss, very recent and unexpected, obliges me to request your indulgence with respect to a half year's rent, due last Lady-day, till the ensuing quarter, when you may depend upon the whole being faithfully discharged by, sir,
Your very humble servant.

The Landlord's Answer.

SIR,

HAVING no reason to complain of your late payments, and entertaining no doubt of the fulfilment of your promise, I think it my duty, by a ready compliance with your request, to grant that indulgence, which your general punctuality so justly deserves. I remain, sir, Yours.

From a Friend to another.

SIR,

HAVING just married a young lady, who will be entitled to five thousand pounds, when of age, of which she wants fourteen months, and being advised, in case of danger, either through sickness or pregnancy, to insure her life for that time, as a multiplicity of business prevents me from making the necessary enquiries, I take the liberty of troubling you to call on both the Royal Exchange and Black Friars Offices, and enquire the terms of both. By acquiescing with the above request, you will exceedingly oblige
Your very humble servant.

The Answer.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request, I have enclosed the proposals of both the insurance offices, begging leave to remark, that your wife must personally appear at the Royal Exchange, where there is no delay; but if you prefer the office at Black Friars, the terms of which are more moderate, they, in order to be as secure as possible, take some time to consult a physician. Any further service that I can render, you may, without any reserve, command of, sir,
Your very humble servant,

From a Young Seaman to a Relation.

DEAR SIR,

ENCOURAGED by the esteem which you professed for my late father, I take the liberty of applying to you for a little succour, which I am, at present, in the greatest need of. You know the indigent circumstances to which my poor deceased father was reduced, therefore cannot wonder at my present want. I am now on a voyage for Jamaica, but being destitute of money, must decline it, if not immediately assisted by some generous friend. The best security I can give, you may command, for the sum of £.40, which, if you will be so good to advance, shall not only be repaid the
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From a Friend to another.—Apology to a Person wanting Money. 25

first opportunity, but, as it may be the means of my future welfare in life, always gratefully remembered by, fir,

Your humble servant,

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

THE remembrance of your worthy father, as well as the candour and sincerity of his son, prompt me not only to commiserate, but grant the required relief. I have, therefore, sent the desired sum, and am exceedingly happy that I had it in my power to prove myself Your sincere friend.

From a Friend to another.

DEAR SIR,

I Have this morning received your letter, wherein you have stated your embarrassed situation, and humbly requested the loan of £.50, which you have declared you will repay in three months. I confess I have that sum by me, which I intended for my landlord, but as I can put him off till then, and being disposed to serve you, I will, if you can positively insure me the payment at that time, supply your present wants; but, I beg leave to remark, that your breaking your promise, will be attended to me with very injurious consequences; therefore, I hope you will consider my situation, and be precise in the re-payment. I am, dear fir,

Yours sincerely,

From the Friend to another, on not receiving Money promised.

DEAR SIR,

I Expected to have heard from you long before this, with respect to the money which you were so kind to promise you would lend me; depending totally upon that promise, I have neglected applying elsewhere, and, as to-morrow will be the day when a large bill of mine becomes due (for which purpose I wanted the cash), I hope you will not fail in fulfilling your word, otherwise my character will be materially injured. I am, fir,

Your humble servant.

Apology to a Person wanting Money.

SIR,

I Am exceedingly sorry to hear you are so embarrassed, particularly as it is not in my power to give you any assistance; my circumstances being almost as bad as yours.

I am, fir,

Your humble servant.

From

From a Servant's late Master to a Gentleman.

SIR,

IN answer to your favour of the 15th instant, wherein you request a faithful character of the bearer, I assure you, upon my honour, that his diligence and knowledge of the business he professes, together with sobriety and honesty, entitle him much to notice; he has been in my service upwards of six years, and it was with the greatest regret that I parted with him.

Yours, &c.

On the same Occasion.

SIR,

I THINK it my duty, in reply to your very polite address of the 8th instant, candidly to inform you, that I discharged Thomas, my late servant, who lived with me only one month, for his continual inebriety, which rendered him totally incapable of doing his duty. I am sir, Yours, &c.

To a Lady, for a Servant's Character.

MADAM,

IN consequence of a vacancy in my family, I have been applied to by Mrs. Cook, who wishes to engage with me, in the capacity of a housekeeper; she has spent some time, I understand in your service. The necessity, therefore, of the case, will I hope, be sufficient excuse for my being urgent in requesting a sincere character of this servant, as I depend entirely upon your veracity and honour. I am, madam,

Your obedient servant,

An Answer to the above.

MADAM,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of answering your favour, relative to Mrs. Cook, who lived with me four years, as housekeeper; having testified the utmost diligence and attention in my service. I must confess that she is fully competent for the task she undertakes. I am, madam,

Your humble servant,

To a Lady, on a similar Occasion.

MADAM,

BEING applied to this morning, by one Mrs. Smith, who wishes to be hired as a cook, and who has consequently referred me to you for her character; I take the liberty, according to custom, of requesting it with candour and sincerity. I am, madam,

Yours, &c.

The Answer.

MADAM,

THE woman you mentioned in your favour, lived with me three years and seven months, during which time I found her both cleanly and expert in her business; I should not have parted with her only she had married. I am, madam,

Yours, &c.

To a Gentleman for a Servant's Character.

SIR,

IN consequence of an application from Timothy Browne, who wishes to serve me as a groom, I trouble you, Sir, whom he says he last lived with, for his character, depending on your honor and veracity. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

An Answer.

TIMOTHY BROWNE, during the time he spent in my service, behaved, I assure you, with great care and diligence. I am, sir,

Yours, &c.

To a Friend, on Breach of Promise.

SIR,

YOU may remember when I lent you the sum of £ 50, that you positively assured me, you would repay it in three months—on that account, I ventured to let you have the money, which I intended for my landlord; it has been now some weeks since the expiration of the time, and I have neither seen nor heard from you. As I have been guilty myself of a breach of promise, owing to yours, you will exceedingly oblige me, by settling it as soon as possible. I am, sir,

Your very humble servant,

SIR,

An Answer.

I AM exceedingly sorry that your good nature should suffer by my misfortunes; I had every reason to think I should be able to fulfil my promise, but I am now determined to surrender all I am worth, and as far as my stock will permit, give every creditor satisfaction. I am, sir,

Your distressed friend, &c.

To a Nephew going Abroad,

MY DEAR JACK,

I Congratulate you upon the success of your interest, in so readily acquiring such an eligible situation abroad; I

think it my duty, however, to assure you, that all the advantages of this voyage chiefly depend upon your proper behaviour and regulation of conduct. Avoid dissipation and idleness, which are very destructive to health, than which nothing should be more dear to you in a strange climate.—While you seek for a fortune, let justice and honour be your guides, and do not sully the laws of humanity, by taking any unworthy advantage over the forlorn. I hope to see you before your departure, in order to add something to your purse and stock, that you may remember

Your affectionate uncle,

From the Nephew in Answer.

MY DEAR UNCLE,

I KNOW not how to express my grateful thanks for your kind advice. Believe me, sir, I shall always endeavour to keep your bright example before my eyes, that I may never deviate from the paths of rectitude. I shall do myself the extreme pleasure of seeing you to-morrow, till when, I remain,

Your dutiful and most devoted nephew,

From a Nephew asking Advice.

HONoured SIR,

AS my situation and circumstances are not unknown to you, I take the liberty of applying to you for advice. My father, you know, left me a trifle, which, tho' it may keep me from want, is not sufficient to render me independent. I am, besides, heartily weary of an idle life, and should be happy of some employment; the exercise and emolument of which may contribute towards my future welfare; but being at present at a loss how to make proper enquiries, I humbly solicit your kindness on the occasion, for which I shall remain,

Your grateful nephew.

From the Uncle in Answer.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,

I WAS exceedingly pleased with the contents of your epistle, having often regretted your present situation. As you have some money to spare, you have certainly an advantage, which many want; by therefore advertising two or three times, and offering a gratuity to any person who has interest sufficient to procure a desirable situation, I think you may succeed, according to your wishes; for I am certain there are

are many persons, of good connections, who, in this secret manner, take a bribe; let your advertisement run thus:—
“An adequate gratuity will be given to any person, who, by his or her interest, can procure for the advertiser, a place in the Custom-house or under government.—A line directed for, &c. will be duly and personally answered, and the profoundest secrecy observed.” But if you are unwilling to risque any money, as I suppose you can have no security of a continuance in those places, as the majority of them are during pleasure, I would advise you to advertise in a genteel paper, as well as the Daily, for a clerkship in the following manner:—“Wants a situation as clerk or partner, a young man, who writes well, understands arithmetic perfectly, and tho’ possessor of an annual income, yet is induced, thro’ motives of industry, to make this application, &c.” I now leave it to your consideration which method to adopt, and wishing you all possible success, remain,

Yours sincerely, &c.

From the Nephew in Reply.

HONORED SIR,

IN order to see which advertisement might turn out better, I have inserted both at stated times, in different papers. I have had three answers to the former, but they came from persons, who, I suspected, had no interest to fulfil their agreement, and only intended to cajole me: they wanted a part of the money in hand, which I absolutely refused; to the latter, I received only two answers; the first was from a Register Office, who assured me, they had several applications from gentlemen, who wanted such an active person as I was, and therefore advised me, by all means, to have my name entered into their books, for which I was to pay some silver; this I declined, promising, that if they got me a good master, I would amply reward them, otherwise I had rather apply that silver to another advertisement; they seemed but ill-pleased with this reply; for my part, I think the majority of these offices are an imposition on the public, particularly on the unfortunate and indigent, who place their dependence on those uncertain procurers: however, the other application has sufficiently rewarded my labour: I am now with a person in the city, who is in a very extensive way of business, to keep his books—I have given him the security he desired, and make no doubt, but by assiduity and care, I

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shall

shall win his favour and encouragement. I am, dear sir,
with hearty and sincere thanks for your late kindness,

Your grateful nephew,

From the Uncle in Reply.

DEAREST WILLIAM,

YOUR success has given me infinite delight, and I am sure, from the specimens I lately had of your brilliancy and industry, that you will be both a credit to yourself, and an acquisition to your master: your sagacious remarks upon those who would have duped you, convince me that you are well qualified to go through the world: it is a pleasure, believe me, to see an "old head upon young shoulders." I am, dearest nephew,

Your affectionate uncle, &c.

From a Quaker to his Friend.

FRIEND OBADIAH,

THOU wilt oblige both Sarah, my partner, and thy friend, Zaccheus, if thou wilt purchase for me a pipe of Port wine—half ditto of Sherry—punchon of Coniac brandy—and ditto of Jamaica rum. If thou wilt send them by our carrier, with an account of the charges, thou shalt receive the money thou hast laid out, from

Thy friend of the faithful,

The Answer.

FRIEND ZACCHEUS,

ACCORDING to thy wish, I took our friend, Jonathan, who understandeth the quality of liquors, and have purchased for thee the quantity thou hast desired; which thou wilt receive a short time after this, with a bill of the charges. Remember to the partner of thy days. Thy friend.

From a Tradesman retiring from Business.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HAVING now acquired a competency to serve me during the remainder of life, and my young children being all provided for, I am determined to resign business to my eldest son, and seek a rural convenient spot, where I may enjoy the fruits of my labour, and see my friends with comfort,

Yours sincerely.

The Answer.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I REJOICE to hear that your industrious attempts are crowned with the desired success; and I applaud your design

design of making room for another, since you have made sufficient for yourself. I am, Yours sincerely.

From a Creditor to a Debtor.

IT is out of my power to give you any further indulgence, seeing that the money has been long due, and I am at present in great want of it; if, therefore, you will not settle your bill by fair means, you shall shortly be obliged, by legal compulsion. I am, fir, Yours.

The Answer.

SIR,

WHEN it is at present out of my power to discharge the debt I have contracted with you, I hope you will consider that making me a prisoner will only add costs to the bill, and render it of course more impracticable. If bereft of my liberty, I shall consequently be deprived of all means of either doing for myself or others. Your further indulgence will, in the end, be better for yourself, and add to the obligations of, fir, Your humble servant.

The Debtor's Wife's Answer.

SIR,

MR. JONES'S present embarrassments having obliged him to leave town, it must be of course evident, that it is totally out of his power to comply with your demand; time, I hope, will make a vast alteration in our circumstances; till when, my husband cannot be seen. I am, fir, Your humble servant,

From a Wholesale Dealer to a Country Shopkeeper.

MR. JAMES,

IT has given me great uneasiness to find a sudden discontinuance of that correspondence, which has lasted for so many years between us. I am ignorant of having, in any one instance, given a cause for offence, as still I retain the same esteem and regard for you. There are few, I am sure, that will be more ready than myself to give you every opportunity of succeeding in your business. I must, therefore, request your candour and sincerity, and if it be agreeable to you to renew our former dealings, trust me, whatever articles your commissions may direct in my way, shall be regularly sent, and charged on the most reasonable terms. I am, fir, Your humble servant, &c.

From an embarrassed Tradesman to a Creditor.

SIR,

A VARIETY of unexpected losses and disappointments, which put it entirely out of my power to satisfy the demands of my creditors, except I am allowed a letter of license for twelve months, oblige me to make this application to you, who are the most principal; and, I doubt not, but when you recollect my former punctuality, and the regularity of my late payments, you will not be averse to this proposal. If this indulgence be denied, it will be totally out of my power to retrieve my affairs, and ruin must inevitably ensue. I am sure, if favoured with your concurrence, that my other creditors will immediately comply; which will enable me to pursue business with an easy mind and additional alacrity, in hopes of surmounting difficulties, and proving myself,

Your grateful servant, &c.

P. S. Your answer will be waited for with the utmost impatience.

The Answer.

SIR,

YOUR late punctuality is such an assurance of your integrity and honesty, that I am readily disposed to acquiesce with your desire; and should it be agreeable to have a meeting of your creditors, I will certainly use all my influence to induce the rest to follow my example—That these crosses may be the last you may experience, and that this desired accommodation may be attended with a happy issue that may lead to uninterrupted success hereafter, is the sincere wish of, Sir,

Your humble servant.

From a Country Shopkeeper to a London Merchant.

SIR,

I REQUEST you will be so kind, by return of post, to let me know the current price of those articles, which I have subjoined. If I think they admit of sufficient profit, you will shortly receive a very considerable order for myself and correspondents. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

[*The list follows.*]

The Answer.

SIR,

A GREEABLE to your request, I have, underneath, added the prices to those articles which you wish to know; shewing,

shewing, at the same time, the retail prices that you may be a judge of the profits. As I have some apprehension that their prices will be shortly advanced, I recommend the present time as the best for yourself and friends to purchase.

I am, Sir, Your very humble servant,

[*The prices, &c. follows.*]

An anonymous Letter to a Tradesman.

SIR,

LIKE a true friend, I take this opportunity of assuring you, that neither your manners nor appearance are calculated for a tradesman—You never return thanks to any customer for his money, and seem very unwilling to oblige; the consequence will soon be, that yourself and shop will be totally deserted—You have a disagreeable way of making replies, and instead of recommending your goods, seem very indifferent whether they are bought or not; the last time I was in your shop, I was very uneasy to see several ladies, particularly elderly gentlewomen, standing—Pray have you no chairs; If they were a scarce commodity, you should have offered them the stool which you employed yourself—so much for your manners. As to your appearance, I would recommend to you a hair-dresser. Why not appear as genteel in your shop, as you do at the *hopping* assemblies in the evening? I presume that you would derive more advantage from it. In hopes that these friendly hints will be of service, I remain, Sir, Your very humble servant, A. B.

From a Master to his Clerk.

MR. HARRISON,

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday, and am happy to find that my absence is no detriment to my business; I desire, when next you write, that you will date your letters—it is a shameful neglect in any tradesman or man of business.

From an Apothecary to his Friend.

DEAR SIR,

I AM very apprehensive that the youth, whom I have taken as apprentice, on account of your regard for his father, is guilty of some mean practices—I should be very unwilling to tax the lad or intimate any suspicion to his father, without very substantial reasons to prove my charge; but, between you and me, I do not think the profits of my retail business, instead of improving, by any means correspond with my

former receipts. This is a season which, on account of the instability of the weather, is not a little promising to our business. I assure you, I am very much embarrassed on account of my fears. You are conscious that I must not, for my own sake, retain a youth that could be guilty of the smallest theft, and it is such a nice business, that I am unwilling to hurt the feelings of a father, who has been so long the friend of mine; for his sake, therefore, I request you will communicate your advice as soon as possible, which shall be gratefully acknowledged, by Sir, Your very humble servant,

The Friend's Answer.

DEAR SIR,

I CONFESS your letter has given me much pain and dissatisfaction, being equally concerned for the interest of my friend, as I am for poor Oliver's peace of mind and tranquillity, whose son I ventured to recommend to you. By all means endeavour to convince yourself whether your suspicions are just or not; for, however disagreeable the detection may be to us all, yet, believe me it is absolutely necessary; by a timely discovery greater sin may be prevented, and the infatuated boy preserved from hereafter ignominious shame. Suppose you spend all to-morrow with me, while we send some unknown persons to buy, severally, a few little articles in your shop; by making a memorandum of those things which are thus indifferently purchased, you may, on your return, see, if they be regularly entered in his book; if they are, I shall be happy to think the boy, notwithstanding the temptation great, is honest and faithful to his trust; but, if you find any omission in the accounts, no greater conviction can be wanting—With hopes that your fears might have deceived you, I remain, dear Sir, Your very humble servant,

From a Clergyman to another.

REVEREND SIR,

AS I find myself exceedingly weak and infirm, I fear I shall be incapable of going through divine service to-morrow with that zeal and devotion, which are so truly necessary on the occasion. I have therefore taken the liberty of requesting your kind assistance, imagining, if not already engaged, you could be able to officiate for me, since I understand your parish church, the repairs not being yet complete, will not be open for divine service this month—Should please God to restore me my health, and give me the same opportunity

opportunity of serving my friend, my willingness shall prove how much I am,
Your obliged brother in God, &c.

The Answer.

RRVEREND SIR,

THOUGH I know myself but a poor substitute for so worthy a pastor, I shall, on this occasion, exert my weak abilities to supply your place, praying Heaven the cause may soon be removed, and my dear friend restored in perfect health to his congregation! Your very humble servant, &c.

From a Father to a run-away Apprentice.

DEAR JACK,

THOUGH you must know yourself to be unworthy of that epithet, yet as I still retain the same parental affection for you as ever, I would fain make you sensible of the duties of a son. Your master, whom I know to be a worthy quiet man, both by his late behaviour and his conduct now, has informed me, that you have, without any provocation that he knows of, left him, and are now in concealment with a young man, who I must declare to be your greatest enemy under the masque of friendship: though his servant would not confess where you both were, he has promised to deliver you this, and I hope these few lines will meet with your serious reflection, and have greater weight than verbal admonitions or personal remonstrances. If a spark of filial gratitude dwells in your breast, you must, for my sake, return to your duty—Consider, Jack, the unremitting pains I have taken in your education. Many a hard earned guinea I have spent in qualifying you for business. I also gave a hundred to your master with you; and, if you but knew the difficulty I procured the money, I am sure you would not thus repay me with ingratitude! The indulgence and generosity of your master leave not the shadow of excuse in paliation of your misconduct; in hopes of your voluntary return he has forbore, according to custom, to advertise you; but, if you stay any longer away you must expect to see your name published to the great disgrace of yourself and family; need I say more to awaken sensibility, and invite you to your home? Yes; and that there may be no apology for your absence, be assured that you shall not only be forgiven, but never reproached by either your master or me: let me then persuade you, if not for mine, for your own sake, to abandon these puerile follies, for surely
you

you must be conscious that all your future happiness and prosperity depend upon your present care and attention. Let not your adversaries, who call themselves your friends, mislead you. I have no reason to deceive you; my admonitions proceed from the just motives of love and sincerity; if I find them slighted and neglected, I shall then renounce you for ever; but if I find they are attended with a happy issue, still shall I remain, Your ever affectionate father, &c.

The Son's Answer.

MY DEAR FATHER,

YOUR goodness leaves me not the smallest plea in extenuation of my conduct. I am conscious of my folly, and, in some measure to deserve both yours and my master's forgiveness (which is at present unmerited) I shall exert every endeavour to redeem the time I have wantonly lost. I confess that it was owing to the dangerous advice of evil disposed persons, that I have thus deviated from my duty, and consequently offended both a good parent and a worthy master: this candid acknowledgment will, I hope, be some assurance of my contrition, while a speedy reformation shall prove me in future, Your dutiful son, &c.

A Father to his Son commencing Business.

DEAR JOE,

THIS day I understand you are sworn an attorney, therefore I think a little advice, respecting the propriety of your future conduct, is absolutely necessary; the profession you have chosen has been, you know, contrary to my wish; but as you appeared somewhat desirous for it, I did not think proper to oppose your inclinations. I have long entertained perhaps unjustly, a strong aversion to the name of an attorney, but this, doubtless, has proceeded from what I have suffered by the tediousness and expence of law-suits. I have known several of your calling to be so accustomed to oppress the fallen, and prey upon the unfortunate, as to be insensible of all feeling and humanity! Such I have held with the utmost contempt and indignation—how many of the unhappy indigent have been rendered still more poor and miserable, by the cajoling promises of those mercenary unfeeling men, who for the sake of enriching themselves, have plunged whole families into ruin and distress! I would not insinuate, Joe, that every follower of the law is thus inclined—your master, I am positive, was a worthy upright man, and that
you

you may be another example, I pray you never undertake a cause that betrays the least cruelty and oppression: be not prone to stimulate your plaintiffs to an opposition, but, if possible, reconcile matters, and be as much the defendant's friend as your client's; tho' such impartial rectitude may not be of present advantage to your purse, yet, believe me, it will so establish your character, as to be of hereafter emolument, by increasing the number of employers. Every man must prefer that attorney who acts from motives of honour and prudence, and had rather settle or compromise a difficult matter over a bottle of wine (thereby making parties social and amicable) than incur a tedious expence, and uneasiness of mind that must even damp the spirits of the succeeding party. Be not, dear Joe, too hasty, on every idle pretence and application, to arrest a man; this I know is a common practice among attorneys, and many are deprived of liberty, unable to regain it, while others have been obliged to pay debts, which have been illegally contracted. Before ever you engage in such undertaking, be well assured that the plaintiff's demand is just, and that the debtor's character and situation are such as authorize you to proceed against him. Whenever you find a poor man under the influence of rich oppressors, and that his right is withheld by the others might, be ready to afford him assistance, and exert your utmost abilities in his behalf: such generosity always compensates itself! Never take advantage of the needy; I have known some of your profession delay business for the sake of enlarging their bill of costs, to the very great detriment of the losing parties. Nothing requires more expedition than the law, and nothing (I am sorry to remark) is attended with greater delay.— That which was originally designed for the relief of the necessitous, is now so artfully corrupted, as generally to give additional pain. Some time ago, when I visited a friend in prison, I was told there were two wretched men in confinement, who had been arrested by their own attorneys; attorneys who had absolutely forced their services with an assurance of success; had cajoled these poor sufferers out of all the money they could borrow, for the sake of concluding a prosecution which they understood would terminate their afflictions; but want succeeded want; and being at last incapable of supplying the demands of these men, they and their families were totally ruined by their supposed friends. I confess this recent business (*absolutely a fact*) has in a great measure prejudiced me against your profession. I detest these characters
who

who can suck the vitals of those, whose easy credulity expose them to deception; and would rather see a tomb-stone over the head of my son, than said it dressed at the expence of honour and integrity! Make it then your study to recover the lost reputation of your calling, and restore your profession to that degree of reputation, to which, on account of the qualifications which are absolutely necessary, it is most justly entitled, and I shall be proud to say, my son is an honest attorney, and, I am, his affectionate father, &c.

The Son's answer.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter this morning, and though I thought your censures on the gentlemen of my occupation rather severe, and chiefly the result of prejudice, yet, as they evidently proceeded from the goodness of your heart, I could not but admire them, even in the height of my disapprobation! You are a physician Sir, and must be conscious that even your profession is liable to censure (by being equally abused as ours. Justice and equity would be indeed banished for ever, were they not constantly enforced and supported by our endeavours. I confess that the *lower* order of attornies have long been a disgrace, as well as a detriment to our profession; but should the rest suffer on their account? I presume, that instead of being the oppressors of the poor, we are more commonly their friends and patrons! were it not for us, Might would indeed overcome Right, and modesty must be trampled on by proud usurpation! Surely, Sir, a *petty-fogg* pretender to our occupation is no more to be compared to an attorney, than a mountebank to a physician! Every profession is liable to be usurped by impostors; some more and some less; but this is no reason that the occupation itself should suffer in our esteem.

I return my dutiful thanks for your kind advice; it shall always be my study to assist the needy; and, as far as my feeble abilities will permit, appropriate the law, as was its first design, to the relief of all the wronged and unfortunate. I shall never undertake any case, that I am not well assured is strictly just and honest; and it shall always be my great ambition to do my clients every justice in my power—by these means I hope to establish a character so unblemished and pure, that even my father shall acknowledge there is an honest attorney in his

Dutiful son, &c.

A Merchant

A Merchant to another requesting the Character of a Clerk.

SIR,

MR. DIXON has applied to me for a place that is now vacant in my counting house. He seems a decent honest man, but appearance not being sufficient assurance, seeing that I must place great confidence in him, I have taken the liberty of requesting your candid opinion both of his honesty and abilities. He has informed me that he was employed for some time in your house; I should be glad particularly to know on what account you parted with him. As he calls the ensuing week, your answer previous to then, will exceedingly oblige, Sir, Your very humble servant,

The Answer.

SIR,

THE person mentioned in your letter is really worthy both of your confidence and encouragement. He served me when in partnership with Mr. Middleton, but that being dissolved, I was obliged to dismiss several hands in order to lessen my expences; it was with the greatest regret on both sides that we parted, I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

From a Tradesman to another demanding a Debt.

SIR,

IT is now upwards of six months since I delivered in a bill of a trifle that you owe me for Spanish shoes and slippers for your lady, I am not accustomed to give credit, as my profits are remarkably small; besides, Sir, if you please to recollect, I paid you ready money for the cottons, which were purchased for me by my housekeeper. I must therefore insist upon your immediately discharging the account between us, for which I shall remain, Sir, Your very humble servant.

The Answer.

SIR,

I Hope you will believe me, when I declare upon the word of a tradesman, I never received the bill that you mentioned. As I give no credit myself, I expect none, and am somewhat surprised that on my account, particularly, you would deviate from your established rule. It is rather hard you must allow yourself, that a man, who would fain support a character of honesty and integrity, should be liable to pay all the unexpected debts of an extravagant wife; yours is not the only bill that has surprised me. If you will be so kind as to send me

me a receipt to-morrow, it shall be discharged; but any other account contracted for the future, without my knowledge or consent, I must beg leave to decline. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

From a Friend to another relative to a Sale.

SIR,

I UNDERSTAND by an advertisement to-day, that several very scarce paintings are to be disposed of by auction at Christie's in Pallmall, the first Thursday in next month. As I am unavoidably obliged to be in Richmond that week, you will exceedingly oblige me by attending and purchasing, at any price, whatever painting is valuable and scarce—I shall repay you with grateful thanks, and remain for the same,

Your obliged servant,

The Answer.

SIR,

YOU will pardon me, I hope, for declining your request, as my reasons I think will sufficiently plead an apology. Pictures are somewhat like books, liable to a variety of tastes—what I might think good may peradventure, meet with your disapprobation; and the very things that might strike your fancy I may unfortunately overlook—I should be very sorry that my friend should suffer by my want of taste (as I do not pretend to any) therefore presume that my non-compliance will prove how much I am,

Your very humble servant,

From a Nephew to his Uncle wanting a Commission.

DEAR SIR,

AS you have long supplied the place of a father, and by your evident attention loved me as a son, I trust my present application may not be deemed either presumptuous or an imposition upon your goodness. I am induced for two reasons to make the following request; first, because my welfare in life has always seemed your concern; and, secondly, I am unwilling to be any longer a burthen to my kind uncle.—I am anxious, at this critical period to serve my King and country; and, presuming that a commission may now be had on reasonable terms, would deem it the greatest addition that could possibly be to all former obligations, if you would procure me even the most humble—my chief ambition shall be to deserve the same, and distinguish myself in such situation, whereby

whereby I flatter myself, I may gain an opportunity of rising—merit seldom goes unrewarded. I cannot bear the thoughts of being thus in obscurity, leading a dull inactive life, when my services are so much wanted—but, above all, to be constantly obliged to weary my dear uncle with repeated solicitations, without either the hope or the prospect of a return. I shall wait with the utmost impatience for your answer, and should it be your inclination to comply, I shall always be proud to make most hearty acknowledgments of your goodness, and prove myself no longer a troublesome, but

Grateful nephew.

The Answer.

DEAR WILLIAM,

THOUGH I confess your request in some measure pleased me, as it shews an eager wish to serve society, besides displaying a great magnanimity of mind; yet the thoughts of dangers you would encounter render me somewhat slow in gratifying your desire. However, if your inclination does not change, and you will not be dissuaded from those honourable motives you have already testified, of deriving fame and support, I shall let you have a sufficient sum to procure the first commission that is to be purchased.—Think, however, on the fatigues and dangers of war—think on the malignant frowns of fortune—think on captivity and death. Many there are, allured by the military dress, only appear what they are: not! I have no reason though to doubt your courage; for real valour and not vanity has evidently prompted this desire. I should be very proud to see my nephew a hero, and boldly aspiring to honor; but it would grieve me very much to think that after he obtained his wish he should have any cause to repent it. I therefore beg you will seriously weigh the business in your mind, for a week at least, and upon your communicating the effects of that consideration, I will endeavour to prove myself,

Your affectionate uncle,

The Nephew's Reply.

DEAR UNCLE,

YOU may rest satisfied that I have duly considered my request before I made it. I am not (as I hope you will allow me) one of those empty fools, who would fain exhibit a red coat, without proving themselves worthy of it—Such bear the external appearance of men, while in fact they have women's hearts. If I have the honor to wear his Ma-

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jefty's

jefty's livery, I shall endeavour to prove that I am sensible it is an honor. At present I am wasting a life that might be better employed. Death is the common lot of all, and a man may as well face him in the field, as endure the lingering pains of dissolution upon a bed.

If therefore, my dear Sir, you will be pleased (as you have partly promised in your affectionate letter) to procure me a commission as soon as convenient, I hope it may be shortly in my power to repay your goodness, and be a credit both to my family and self. I remain, dear uncle, Yours, &c.

The Uncle in Reply.

DEAR WILLIAM,

AS I find you are absolutely determined to pursue your fortune in the field, I will no longer oppose so laudable a wish, and will endeavour as soon as possible to grant your request. I am, Yours sincerely, &c.

From a Gentleman to another, relative to a bad servant.

SIR,

THE footman, whom I received into my house, on account of your recommendation; has proved himself, I am sorry to say, during his short stay with me, the very reverse of honest, sober and industrious; these being his characteristics, as you were pleased to write, but of which (in my service at least) he has proved himself totally undeserving. As I think it a duty every honest person owes to society to give the real characters of servants, when required, I request, should he apply to you instead of me, for a recommendation, you will be so good as to refer him to his last master, which will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your humble servant.

SIR,

The Answer.

I RECEIVED your letter, which has somewhat surprised me; as I must repeat, that the footman alluded to, was, in every sense of the words, honest, sober, and industrious, while he lived with me, otherwise I should not have kept him three years. I shall certainly give the man the character he deserves, while I knew him, and at the same time tell the enquirer, what you are pleased to remark, that you were his last master, by means of which reference you may have an opportunity of proving your declarations; but I think they should be *proved*, before the man is rendered incapable of earning his bread. I am, Sir, Your humble servant.

LETTERS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE, &c.

Reprimand from a Father to his Son on an imprudent Connection.

DEAR HARRY,

I AM sorry to hear by several accounts from Bath, that you are become guilty not only of the greatest extravagance, but the most dangerous imprudence. You frequent, I understand, the habitation of a female, both unknown and unrespected—I should be glad to know what your intentions are? Do you mean to make her your wife? Certainly, Harry, my consent is necessary—your father, I think deserves your candor and sincerity, for the great fondness and attention he has always shewn you; you may depend upon it, I would never object to any thing which tended to your future happiness—Indeed, I should be unwilling, nay, exceedingly mortified, that you should stain the credit of your family, and sully your name, by an improper union; and I must suspect (with some reason) that a lady who admits the clandestine visits of a gentleman, and is only to be seen with him, when the dusky shadow of night adds to her concealment, is guided by no honorable views, or, at least, is so weak and imprudent, that she may be guilty of the same after marriage; but if it be only a piece of gallantry, which occasions your visits, and that your intentions are base and cruel, be assured, Harry, that I shall abandon you for ever!—for, though fashionable and common, as it is now become, yet the inhumanity of imposing upon a credulous female, and taking from her that, which you can never restore again, renders the actor a disgrace to society, as well as to that religion (Christianity) which he pretends to!—How can he show his face, I wonder, that renders a poor easy fond creature ashamed of showing hers!—I hope I have said enough to banish from your breast, such vile designs, if there were any, and, tho' for this trouble, I may appear bold and officious, yet, believe me, son, I am not only your true friend and counselor, but likewise Your fond affectionate father.

The Son's Answer.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU must certainly be aware of those malicious tongues, that are always ready to calumniate, as well as exaggerate every matter, that may wear the appearance of secret gallantry. I do not hesitate, therefore, in calling those vile informers

informers, who have endeavoured to sow discord between a father and son, both despicable cowards and base lyars. You have been so good to give me an education, suitable to the fortune I hold in expectation, and treated me in every instance, with such parental affection, that not only demands my most warm gratitude, but all the filial effusions of duty; therefore I deem myself responsible to you for every part of my conduct in life. I am conscious of some indiscretions, and receive your gentle reproofs, with due submission; I confess, Sir, that a few days after my arrival here, I did become captivated with a lovely young creature, who though inferior to me in fortune, surpasses all the fair I have yet seen, both in mental and personal accomplishments. I have visited her, but she never would see me alone: her niece was always present;—I have walked with her, but still in the company of others, and she generally preferred the *open day* to the *dusky evening*: far be it from me to harbour a thought to her disadvantage!—I would die, ere I would wrong or insult the innocence I so much admire!—Apprehensions of your displeasure, I own, had deterred me from avowing this secret passion before; but I assure you, it was my intention, and I had almost concluded a letter to the purpose, when I received yours, which required one of a different nature.—I candidly acknowledge that, to engage her affections, I incurred expences beyond the bounds of my allowance, but this conduct, though culpable, will, I hope, be deemed pardonable, seeing it arises from the prevalence of love.

I shall return home immediately, and flatter myself, when I inform you of the parentage and connections of this young lady, you will not be averse to my wishes; but if it be your pleasure to disapprove, I assure you, I shall then endeavour to suppress my inclinations; in the mean time, I subscribe myself,

Your dutiful and affectionate son.

From a Daughter to her Father, disclosing a Proposal of Marriage

MY DEAR HONORED SIR,

AS Mr. Granger, whose father, I am sensible, is one of your most intimate acquaintance, has, during your absence in the country, openly avowed a sincere passion for me, and ardently pressed me to comply with his overtures of marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of that nature, however advantageous they might seem, till I had received your opinion on so important an affair, being determined to be entirely directed by your superior judgment.

and according to your advice, either prohibit or encourage his addressees. I shall however take the liberty, with due submission, to disclose candidly my real sentiments of the young gentleman, I hoping, am not too blind or partial in his favour: he appears perfectly honorable in his intentions, and to be by no means inferior to any gentleman of my acquaintance, either in respect to good sense or good manners. I acknowledge, Sir, that I could admit his addressees with pleasure, were they attended with your consent and approbation; but, Sir, be assured, that I am not so far engaged, as to act with precipitation, or comply with any offers, inconsistent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude for your paternal indulgence, I shall ever owe you. Your advice, therefore, as soon as possible, on so momentous a subject, will be the greatest satisfaction imaginable to, dear honored Sir,
Your most dutiful daughter.

The Father's Answer to the Daughter.

MY DEAREST GIRL,

I HAVE long wished to see you happy with a deserving man—I would not upon any consideration, either thwart or force your inclinations; the consequences, especially of the latter, have been in many instances, fatal; far be it from me to disapprove of a worthy match! I should then deviate from the duty of a father, and be injurious to the happiness of a daughter. I know the gentleman's family you mention, and make little doubt but the connection will be mutually agreeable; be assured then that my return home shall be as speedy as possible, in order to prove how much I am, my dear girl's,
Affectionate father.

From a Lover, to the Object of his Affection.

MADAM,

THE ardent passion I entertain for you, being founded on the basis of sincerity, will, I hope, be ample apology for this seeming presumption. As my views are both honorable and just, they cannot, I trust, give any offence to that delicacy, which I so much admire. I have beheld you, unobserved, with the profoundest attention, till, at last, I was led to behold you with admiration; and discovering such amiability in your countenance, was induced by the sensibility, which it indicated, to flatter myself your mind is susceptible of impression, and would not deny encouragement, where truth, honor, and sincerity are advocates. I am

informers, who have endeavoured to sow discord between a father and son, both despicable cowards and base lyars. You have been so good to give me an education, suitable to the fortune I hold in expectation, and treated me in every instance, with such parental affection, that not only demands my most warm gratitude, but all the filial effusions of duty; therefore I deem myself responsible to you for every part of my conduct in life. I am conscious of some indiscretions, and receive your gentle reproofs, with due submission; I confess, Sir, that a few days after my arrival here, I did become captivated with a lovely young creature, who though inferior to me in fortune, surpasses all the fair I have yet seen, both in mental and personal accomplishments. I have visited her, but she never would see me alone: her niece was always present;—I have walked with her, but still in the company of others, and she generally preferred the *open day* to the *dusky evening*: far be it from me to harbour a thought to her disadvantage!—I would die, ere I would wrong or insult the innocence I so much admire!—Apprehensions of your displeasure, I own, had deterred me from avowing this secret passion before; but I assure you, it was my intention, and I had almost concluded a letter to the purpose, when I received yours, which required one of a different nature.—I candidly acknowledge that, to engage her affections, I incurred expences beyond the bounds of my allowance, but this conduct, though culpable, will, I hope, be deemed pardonable, seeing it arises from the prevalence of love.

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From a Lover, to the Object of his Affection.

MADAM,

THE ardent passion I entertain for you, being founded on the basis of sincerity, will, I hope, be ample apology for this seeming presumption. As my views are both honorable and just, they cannot, I trust, give any offence to that delicacy, which I so much admire. I have beheld you, unobserved, with the profoundest attention, till, at last, I was led to behold you with admiration; and discovering such amiability in your countenance, was induced by the sensibility, which it indicated, to flatter myself your mind is susceptible of impression, and would not deny encouragement, where truth, honor, and sincerity are advocates. I am
thereby

thereby encouraged to avow an honest passion, and indulge, at least, a distant hope of success. Permit me then, on any day that may be convenient, and in the presence of whatever friend may be deemed most proper, personally to assure you, how much I am, with all due respect,

Your sincere friend, and ardent lover.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

AS your unexpected favor required much consideration, it was totally out of my power to give it an immediate reply. I was induced to think some part of it flattery, than which there is nothing gives me greater offence. At times, I was apprehensive that the whole proceeded from gallantry; but I hope, Sir, neither my conduct nor manners, render me a proper object for ill-timed wit or cruel sport: there is something, however, in the latter part of your favour, which promises sincerity, and indicates honor. I cannot, however, approve of a sudden passion, which prudence and decorum forbid; notwithstanding I shall be very happy to have the pleasure of your company any evening, with other friends, provided you will waive a subject, that requires both time and consideration, before it can be with any propriety introduced. I am, Sir, Your humble servant.

From a Bachelor to a married Friend.

DEAR SIR,

IT can be no wonder that the much-to-be-envied happiness of my dear friend and his lady, have long increased that anxious desire, which I have at intervals, to enter my name into the list of happy *Benedicts*. I am become heartily weary of celibacy and a solitary life. I wish for a loving partner to gladden my days and harmonize my soul; but all past attempts being in vain, I apply to you for advice, for the older I grow the more difficult I shall find it, of course, to gain my ends: whether modesty or want of money has been my misfortune, I know not, but I could never prevail upon any young lady yet to give me her hand. I have known many a poor man obtain an heiress; and I have frequently made proposals and formed an acquaintance with several young ladies; so that I cannot attribute my ill success to these causes. My looking glass assures me, that I am neither decrepit, old, nor ugly; but I can get no fair to view me with my own eyes; I can meet no lady so kind to me as

my

my glass! Pray, then, commiserate my situation, and tell me what I shall do. I have been thinking of advertising for a discreet young tender-hearted female: to shew my integrity, I shall settle whatever fortune she has, upon her, and enter into a written promise to give her every proper indulgence. I have frequently seen advertisements of a similar tendency; and if others do it, why may not I? Give me, pray, your advice; and if you approve of this measure, you shall be my friend to bring about an interview, whenever you think there comes a serious reply. I shall remain, with the utmost impatience to hear from you.

Your sincere and obedient friend.

The Friend's Answer.

DEAR JACK,

IT has been urged by several, that it is much more difficult to get rid of a wife, than to obtain one; but I dare say, my friend looks upon himself as an exception. I would not, upon any account, preach against matrimony; but I think it should always meet with due, serious consideration. How many are there like you, so eager to have a wife, that they never think of previously consulting the disposition of the woman they are about marrying: and what is generally the consequence? We find extravagance and thriftiness united—the peaceable and turbulent!—in short, such contradicting tempers so often meet, owing to precipitation and folly, that what was intended to *harmonize* the soul, too frequently proves an unhappy *discord*. Having thus preached so far, I hope my friend will beware of making a rash choice; for which reason be resolved never to take a woman that does not see you with your *own eyes*, and become as kind to you as your *glass*.

I assure you, Jack, that the matrimonial happiness, which you so often envy, is too generally false, by being feigned. On your account, I have had, this moment, a falling out with my lady; I was absent when your letter came, and taking advantage of the fond indulgence, which I had always granted her, she took the liberty of opening your favor and perusing the contents. Now she displays all the privileges, which her sex usurp; the right of gratifying her female curiosity, and the pleasure of revealing secrets and talking. What you meant as serious, she now turns into ridicule; and she has applied to every friend, for the news papers, that she may see your advertisement. For this chief reason, I beg

your

you will decline your intention, as certainly you will expose yourself to many impositions, for doubtless my wife and her gossips will seize an opportunity of deceiving you, and lead you some unnecessary dances; for the sake of (what they call) sport and diversion.

Indeed, my friend, when you seriously consider the business, an advertisement I think should be the last resource; it seems somewhat strange to address the Public on such a *private* subject; besides, few amiable women are in want of admirers:—what amiable woman, can you suppose, then, would take notice of your public proposal, and violate all the laws of prudence and decorum, by vouchsafing it a serious answer? How can a lady be sure but such advertisement is the produce of a wit's brain, and only intended to deceive and ridicule the credulous. You may, I grant, have some applications from the *tender-hearted*, but none, I am sure, from the *discreet*; and I should be exceedingly sorry, my friend would make an improper union, by hastily accepting the hand of some deserted fair, or a woman, who, for convenience's sake, would be induced to call you husband.

If you want a wife, keep your wish concealed;—render yourself as agreeable as you can to the ladies, and be in their company as often as possible; but do not be a general lover; for truth, honor, and constancy, are the only recommendations, which a woman of sense will ever be guided by; beware of falling into the snares of the coquets and flirts; the prude, who trembles and blushes at your suit, leave to a state of celibacy, for time will punish her pretended coyness, and unmeaning squeamishness. I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

From a Friend to another, advising him to marry.

DEAR CHARLES,

I AM sorry to hear that you have absolutely declared against matrimony, and for no other reason, as I can learn, but because you are not acquainted with its sweets. Has not both Providence and religion enjoined this sacred union? Would we be now in existence only for it? But without confining ourselves to general reflections, let us see if you could not live more comfortably with a woman, than in the single state, you are at present resolved to make choice of; for my part I must think that if you find yourself capable of regulating a family, of living upon good terms, with an honest person, and of giving good education to your children, you would find
that

that there is nothing more agreeable than to live with a woman, who has made a tender of herself to you, and who is inclined to discharge faithfully all the duties incumbent on that union. If you examine every thing which passes in a family, under proper regulations, you will see that a good virtuous wife shares with her husband all the pleasure or sorrow that may happen—his joy she increases by adding her own, and his afflictions she alleviates by the part she bears in them. Conjugal affection when it is sincere seldom decreases; but, supposing the first transports of love to suffer an abatement, still a virtuous woman is the best friend a man can have. They concert together the measures they judge conformable to what they design to undertake and put in execution. They never act but by agreement; their thoughts and sentiments rest on the foundation of mutual confidence and the good understanding which subsists between them, adds unspeakable charms to the union. A husband may leave home and enjoy uninterrupted tranquillity, because he leaves the care of his family concerns to the frugal and good housewife. If he have children—how sweet are the effects of his love, who will be hereafter the support of his old age? Single life in men can no where find the consolation and assistance that are met with in the society of women. Providence has given this help to man as a sort of help-mate, and therefore, as the scripture says, “it is not good for man to be alone.”

The Romans (as appears in history) expelled from their city those who persisted to live in a state of celibacy, as being useless to the republic. There is something unnatural in a man desiring to remain a bachelor all the days of his life! it is contradictory to the laws of reason and nature; he that hates a woman, hates the loveliest part of heaven's creation, and well deserves to be hated himself! I hope, then, my friend will change his opinion of a single life, and lay upon himself the injunction of matrimony, which, no doubt, will be more agreeable than he has hitherto thought it. He will, I hope, take in good part the advice I here presume to give, and believe that I am,

His sincere friend.

An Answer.

SIR.

I THANK you for your letter of advice, and to prove that I have attended to your council, and followed your precepts, I beg leave to inform you, that I have given both my hand and heart, this day, to a lady of Grosvenor-square; this
may

may appear somewhat extraordinary after the resolution that I made; but believe me, Sir, that resolution proceeded not from an aversion to women, as you have unkindly insinuated, but from motives of real tenderness and affection: my property was but small and only sufficient for one person; by marrying, I not only endanger the happiness of myself, but perhaps bring misfortunes upon the head of a virtuous woman—if poverty knocks at the door, love not only gives admittance but leaves the room; and those very children that you say will be our comfort and happiness, may serve in such case, only to add to our affliction, by adding to our wants; believe me, my dear Sir, I should never, notwithstanding all your persuasive arguments, have been tempted in my poor state to marry a woman, had not my uncle lately died and left me an estate, which without an heir must have perished in my family, for, though your picture of matrimony is very captivating, and may, in some measure be just, yet (for example) I can draw one that is not only alarming, but equally true—A husband and wife are together without a competency for life, a child year after year enters the world, to be both miserable and to make them so! Are the cries of these children harmonious—are they the sweets of matrimony? “It is better for a man to be alone.”

All politeness after marriage ceases, “A lover when a husband is a lover no more.” This is a common saying, and I believe it is verified by almost every couple after the honeymoon. Good manners and respects generally cease after marriage, and of course ill humour and anger fill their place! If a wife drops her handkerchief, her fan, or any thing else, the husband leaves her to take it up herself; but when he was courting, how readily he would fly to her assistance, how gladly stoop to serve her! A husband you may see very often take the wall-side of his wife whenever they are walking together; they will frequently take a long walk and not exchange a single word—Such are the pleasures and harmony of matrimony!

My friend will now give me leave to point out the blessings of a single life—A bachelor has no cause for jealousy, nor is he fretted with the jealousy of his wife! he is unacquainted with the actions of *crim. con.* and the disquietudes attending a bad woman—he has no sons to torment him with extravagance and dissipation; he has no daughters eloping with footmen, or sacrificing their virtue; in short, he has no plagues,
which

which are so common to married men, and which, Heaven grant may never be known by my dear friend, or his

Most affectionate servant.

From a young Man suddenly captivated at the Play House.

MADAM,

THIS intrusion will, I hope, be deemed pardonable, when I assure you, with all due submission, that it is the irresistible impulse of honest love, which induces me thus to address you. The charms of your person, which appeared to such advantage last night at the play house in Covent Garden, have totally deprived me of my heart. I flatter myself my glances were not altogether disagreeable, as I did not perceive any token of disdain. I am therefore encouraged, though a stranger, to make this humble acknowledgment of my love, and; if you will honor me with an interview, in the presence of any relation, will satisfy you, and those whom it may concern, with respect to my parentage, connections, profession, and all other matters that should be known previous to an allowed familiarity. Presuming, unless a fatal pre-engagement prevents, that you will comply with my request, seeing that my designs are apparently honorable, I remain, waiting with the utmost impatience for an answer, Madam,

Your devoted servant.

From the Lady's Father.

SIR,

MY daughter has this day shewn me a letter with your signature; from motives of prudence and modesty, she declines answering it herself; it is not my intention either to force her inclinations, or oppose a desirable connection; her heart has hitherto been her own; if you will therefore favor me to-morrow with a call, and prove the veracity of your assertions, you shall always have my permission to visit my daughter, as long as it may be agreeable to her. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

From a Lover to a Father on his Attachment to the Daughier.

SIR,

AS I scorn to act in a manner as may bring reproach upon myself and family, for I hold clandestine proceedings unbecoming of any man of character, with candour and exultation

exultation I take the liberty of avowing my love for your daughter, and humbly request her permission to pay her my addresses, as I flatter myself my family and expectancies will be found worthy of your notice. I have some reason to imagine, that I am not altogether disagreeable to your daughter; but I assure you, honestly, that I have not as yet endeavoured to win her affection, for fear it might be repugnant to a father's will. I am, Sir, Your most obedient servant.

The Father's Answer.

SIR,
I MAKE no doubt of the truth of your assertions, relative to yourself, character, and connections; but as I think my daughter too young to enter into such a serious engagement, I request I may hear no more of your passion for the present; in every other respect, I am, Sir, Your most obedient

A different Reply.

SIR,
THERE is so much candor and honor apparent in your letter, that to withhold my consent would be both ungenerous and unjust. According to the duty of a father, I shall first make some necessary enquiries, assuring you, I never would oppose my daughter's choice, except I had some very just reason to imagine it would be productive of ill consequences; for I am convinced, that in the marriage state happiness consists only in reciprocal love. You may therefore depend upon hearing from me in a few days, till when I remain, Your very humble servant.

SIR, *From the same.*
AS my enquiries have given me every satisfaction, finding that your character is irreproachably just, I beg leave to inform you, that I shall be very happy to see you at my house, whenever it is convenient to you. Should you meet with my daughter's approbation, your dispositions appear similar, and your hearts united, I shall be proud to join your hands, and further as much as possible your connubial happiness. I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

From a young Lady to a Gentleman, introduced by her Father.

SIR,
ON subjects like these where peace of mind and happiness are so much concerned, ceremony and compliments are both

both disgusting and unnecessary:—You may remember when you were pleased to honor me with your addresses, that I assured you it was out of my power to love you as a husband, but that I would endeavour to esteem you as a friend; you have now even forfeited that esteem, by basely taking recourse to compulsion, and treacherously winning the consent of an infatuated father (who positively insists on my receiving your addresses, after my late peremptory rejection) thus endeavouring to enslave my mind under a dissembled esteem for my person: I therefore seize this opportunity of assuring you, that your attempts are as fruitless as they are pitiful, and my heart being already engaged to a more worthy object, I am determined to die, before I sacrifice my hand!

Sure, Sir, upon cool and deliberate reflection, you must, notwithstanding the wishes of my father, despise the acceptance of a lifeless hand, and so far become the man of spirit, if possess of either honor or feeling, as to forget a woman who proved herself now so unworthy your attention. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

From the above Lady's secret Lover.

MY DEAR LYDIA,

APPRISED of your father's cruelty and the baseness of your intended husband, I think in this respect an elopement both praiseworthy and proper. You are at present exposed to insults and despotism, while methods base and cruel may be taken of blasting all our early hopes, and rendering life for ever wretched! Let me prevail on you, therefore, to put yourself under my care and protection—this night a coach shall be ready, and I hope speedily to convey you from all apprehension and cruelty. You know my honor and sincerity: believe me, I would not urge this proposal, were I not alarmed for your safety. I am, dear Lydia,

Your sincere and most constant admirer.

The Lady's Answer.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH I am conscious of the impropriety and sin of eloping, yet I think, in my situation, it is somewhat excuseable; I have endeavoured in vain to remonstrate with my father; but tears and solicitations are unavailing! he has insisted upon my marriage with Mr. Violent to-morrow: who then can blame me for running away to-night? When a parent forgets his tenderness and affection, he may censure him-

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self for his child's want of duty and obedience! I shall, therefore, in compliance with your will, meet you secretly this evening; till when, I remain, Your distressed.

From a young Lady to her Father, on a Proposal of Marriage.

DEAR HONORED SIR,

I THINK I should be wanting both in duty and respect, did I not consult a father, who has manifested so much care and concern for my welfare, on all occasions of importance. I have this day received a proposal of marriage from Mr. Worthy, the son of our honest and respectable neighbour; he has proposed the greatest esteem for me, but I have declined listening to his addresses, till I had first received my father's advice and opinion; as I am determined, not only in this, but all other concerns, to be entirely guided by your superior judgment. I am, dearest Sir,
Your affectionate daughter,

From the Father in Answer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

I CANNOT express the satisfaction I felt, while reading your affectionate letter, you have exhibited strong proof of filial respect, in thus soliciting advice, on a business, which equally concerns both you and me. The gentleman's father, you mentioned, I know perfectly well; he bears a most respectable character, and his circumstances in life are thought to be good; but I am a total stranger to his son, and therefore would advise my daughter, to take some time for consideration, that we may acquire as much knowledge as possible of his disposition and manners, and see whether his connection with you would be perfectly agreeable to his father: for I have too great a regard for my child, to wish her to enter into a family, where she would not be properly respected.—I assure you, my dear girl, nothing would give me so much pleasure and happiness, as to see you united with a man of merit and probity, to which I think my daughter's virtues are entitled. Every opportunity therefore, of promoting a desirable union, it shall always be my study to embrace. I remain

Your affectionate father, &c.

From

From a jealous Lover to his Mistress.

OH MADAM, MADAM,

I AM neither blind nor deaf—I can both see and hear!—Your partiality for Mr. Careless is every day before my eyes, and your tenderness for him has now reached my ears! But why have you deceived me! Why promised constancy and love, and drove one to madness and despair? What action of my life has merited this base return? Have I not loved?—Yes, cruel beauty; doated to distraction; and wherefore use me thus? As I cannot bear the thought of being a dupe any longer, I wish to know your real and candid sentiments. If it be your pleasure that all our former vows—all our fond protestations should be revoked, I am content; for I despise a lifeless hand. The heart is the chief of my ambition. Your candor therefore will greatly oblige, Madam,
Your distracted lover.

The Lady's Answer.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your unkind letter, which I must declare I could not comprehend: no circumstances of my life, I presume, can prove me guilty of any impropriety or indecorum; I certainly thought proper to disguise our partiality and therefore last night, at Lady Riot's endeavoured to conceal my real love, for fear of incurring the sarcastic ridicule of our friends. In my opinion, nothing is more imprudent, nothing more offensive, than for lovers, to appear *lovers* in company; it is both disagreeable and disgusting to society. I trust, I have said sufficient to remove all your groundless fears, and assure you, how much I am
Yours sincerely, &c.

From a Lover to his Mistress's Aunt requesting her intercession.

DEAREST MADAM,

HAVING several times, with your knowledge, been happy in the company of your niece, I have often endeavoured to avail myself of those opportunities of avowing my honest and sincere love; but, just as I have been about to speak, my fears have vanquished my hopes, and I have been obliged to suspend my design, I confess, I have thrown out some intimations, but it seems the young lady did not or will not comprehend them. As I flatter myself, madam, that my family and connections have already recommended me to your favor, I most humbly solicit that you will be
F 2 my

my advocate on this occasion. I would fain make a declaration of my love, but not knowing how to begin it, request you will be kind enough to prepare the way. I wait with the utmost impatience your reply, till when, believe me,
 Madam, You sincere friend.

The Aunt's Answer.

SIR,
DIFFIDENCE is generally the companion of merit, and a sure token of respect; therefore I cannot say, that I have any dislike, on my own part, to the manner of your proposal; but not knowing how my niece may take it, trial must prove the event. Agreeable to your request, I shall embrace the first opportunity of apprising her of your love for her, and use all the eloquence I am mistress of, in your favor. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, &c.

From a modest Lover to his Mistress.

MY DEAR MADAM,
I HAVE long struggled with the most honorable and respectful passion, that ever filled the heart of man: frequently I have endeavoured to reveal it personally, and as frequently in this manner; but never, till now, could summon sufficient courage, to consummate my design. I can no longer labour with a secret, that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more, when I have endeavoured to reveal it. With rapture I fly to see you, and yet when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated, as I ought, I am utterly confounded and totally deprived of utterance. Sure it must be a diffidence in myself,—a consciousness of my own unworthiness, and an exalted opinion of your merit, that occasion this timidity. Love, they say, has inspired men with courage, and stimulated them to noble achievements; how differently does it operate with me! seeing it deprives me of all necessary confidence!—Believe me, my dear Madam, though romantic as it may appear, my passion is real and sincere. If respect be a crime, it bears its own punishment—it is unnecessary for me to add, that my designs and motives are honorable. Who could dare approach so much virtuous excellence, with any unworthy views? My family and circumstances will, I flatter myself, stand the test of the strictest enquiry. Oh then, my dear Madam, condescend to embolden my respectful passion, by a favorable reply, which will for ever oblige

Your affectionate and devoted admirer.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

MODESTY is allowed to be the greatest ornament of our sex, and I cannot see any reason to deem it blameable in yours: to say more on this occasion, would ill become me—it would border upon presumption; to say less, would justly appear affectation; it would seem that I knew not how to pay that regard to modest merit, which modest merit only deserves. I remain, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

From an Aunt to her Niece, disapproving of her Choice.

MY DEAR NIECE,

DO not, I beg you, imagine the liberty which I now take of admonishing you, with respect to one instance of your conduct, proceeds from any officious impertinence; on the contrary, it is my regard for your own honor and future happiness, which prompts me to take up the pen. I am informed, that you have most imprudently given encouragement to the addresses of that empty dissipated coxcomb, Mr. Jacques, and absolutely admitted him as a suitor in form. This report I am sorry to find corroborated, by his being constantly seen with you at public places, and other circumstances, which I am sorry to say, prove my niece very deficient in prudence and discretion: the accounts I hear of this young man, are exceedingly alarming: he has been the ruin, I understand, of two unguarded females, in the country, whom, after he seduced, he abandoned, to their misery; and may I not with some reason be apprehensive that his views, in respect to you, are equally base and dishonorable? Oh then, my dear niece, despise the company of a man, who is void of all the principles of honor, virtue, or humanity. Your education has been good, therefore I cannot think you destitute of understanding; you have been, from your infancy, taught the ways of virtue, therefore I cannot think you will wilfully swerve from the path of rectitude; reflect seriously then on the evil tendency of this unthinking behaviour, and abandon from your presence, a man unworthy of your notice; be assured, that it is through motives of benevolence and sincerity of regard, that you have received, I hope, these timely admonitions from

Your affectionate aunt.

The Niece's Answer.

DEAR AUNT,

I HAVE suffered myself so much by defamation and calumny, that I am unwilling to condemn, before I am well assured of the guilt. I cannot see those failings in the gentleman alluded to, which you have been so good, on my account, to remark. Seeing that you have been misinformed in respect to the information you have heard concerning my conduct, I am naturally led to hope that the other accounts are equally erroneous. I should despise the man that ever insulted or abused one of my own sex, but I am not so credulous and weak, as to give credence to every idle story and meer hearsay:—I am unwilling to take a supposition for an assurance, and look upon what may be a fiction, as a downright truth. Pardon me, aunt, when I declare that, in my eyes, this gentleman is possess of honor, virtue, and humanity!—I have never known him to break his word;—I have never heard him slander or blaspheme; and I have often witnessed his generosity void of ostentation. However, as your letter alarmed me not a little, I have, with true candour and sincerity, shown it to Mr. Jacques, assuring him, that it would be out of my power to see him again, if he did not, on good authority, acquit himself immediately. I saw evident marks of innocence in his countenance—he thanked me kindly for my openness—promised to convince you of the injustice of your declarations, and, in return, I have promised to reward him with my hand: of course, I feel myself exceedingly indebted to my aunt, for her kind and affectionate letter, as it will either be the means of preventing much sorrow and misery, or effectually completing the future happiness of her

Grateful niece.

From a young Lady's Friend, to a disagreeable Suitor.

SIR,

BEING the sincere friend to Miss Sidney, to whom she has in confidence revealed her utter aversion to your intruding impertinence and nonsensical jargon, I have undertaken, in consequence of her request, to insist that you will forbear farther solicitations, as they are both contemptible and disgusting. Consummate ignorance alone can after this be guilty of a perseverance, which may produce such fatal consequences, as to provoke my friend to apply to some male relative for protection. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant, &c.

From

From a Ward to her Guardian, against compulsive Marriage.

DEAR SIR,

I HOPE you will do me the justice to acknowledge, that hitherto, I have in no material instance transgressed the obedience which I owe that friend, whom my father, in his will, appointed as my guardian—that guardian, which now supplies the place of a father, but, on the contrary, that I have been attentive to his advice, and submissive to his will; still I hope to preserve the character of an obedient ward. You have expressed a great desire, that I should give my hand to Mr. Sturdy: herein I must disobey; were it a father's self that demanded compliance, duty, if not directed by inclination, must give way to nature. I have therefore taken this liberty, with all deference, to put in a plea for your candid indulgence, in a matter that concerns the happiness of my life, and though a female, to reason with you a little upon it. I confess Mr. Sturdy, is a man of property and respect; these I grant, are strong recommendations, but not sufficient qualities to constitute happiness in a matrimonial life; consider the great disparity of years—I am young, he is old: the gaiety of youth can never agree with the gravity of age: if they cannot agree, such a disproportionate match must be productive of reciprocal aversion! Age can never delight youth, and sure where there is no attraction on the part of one object, there can be no affection on the part of the other; and if one part be deficient in affection, happiness can never be mutual. Mr. Sturdy may find more pleasure in an alliance, with a widow or a lady of advanced years and experience, while, perhaps, I may meet with a gentleman better suited to my inclinations; having thus far expatiated (as well as my feeble abilities will permit) upon the inevitable consequences of uniting young and old, I hope my dear guardian will no longer favour the addresses of his friend, but persuade him to look out for a more suitable and worthy lady than his young foolish ward. I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

From a late Lover to a Lady.

MADAM,

I HAVE been so long, and with so little success, preferring my addresses, that finding them equally tiresome to you and myself, I think it now the best way to decline them for ever! I confess myself guilty in not having done this long ago, but I was amused with hope, as well as the false intimations of your friends, I wish, when I had first made known my

my wishes, you had been so generous as to have given me a peremptory denial instead of encouraging! that cruelty would have been kindness; but there is double cruelty in the kindness you have shewn! it would have prevented trouble on my part, and anxiety on yours; but I shall no longer intrude with my professions, nor shall you be any longer under the necessity of rejecting them—from this day I am at liberty to renew my choice; you to select another object for yours; and as I once held you in the profoundest esteem, I cannot forbear expressing a desire, that you may meet with a man, who may be as constant and sincere as your late unfortunate admirer.

Adieu for ever!

From a late Lover to a Coquette.

MADAM,

THOUGH my understanding may be doubted, and my penetration insulted, yet you shall find that the latter is capable of discerning fallacy, and the other of resenting insolence. I am sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of charging you of both these crimes. The proposals I made you were not only honorable but sincere; and while you seemed inclined to listen, you were at the same time encouraging the unwarrantable addresses of several idle fops and vain wittlings; who not only bring disgrace on their own sex, but too often bring reproach on yours. In knowledge of beauty, and susceptibility of love, I presume, I am equal to any man, but none can entertain a greater aversion to thoughtless coquetry than I do; for it sullies every other illustrious quality. If these hints are taken, as they are meant, and effect a happy reformation, I shall be proud both to repeat my visits and renew my professions; but if vanity and conceit close your ears against the friendly admonitions of a lover, pardon him, Madam, if for the future he disclaims that title. I am,

Your very humble servant.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

IF vanity and conceit are failings to be found in me, I must beg leave to observe that others, nay, even yourself are guilty of the same; the understanding and penetration you boast of, pronounce you both vain and conceited; and I cannot forbear declaring that the contents of your letter (deserving thanks only for its brevity) are exceedingly rude and unwarrantable; I never sought your addresses; I never as-
sured

fured you of the possession of my heart; I have undoubtedly an equal right as yourself to judge and act.—If I take pleasure in sounding the depth of the boasted penetration of your sex, or amuse myself with a train of empty admirers (among which number perhaps I had rated you) for the gratification of punishing their arrogance, am I pray responsible to you for those whims? be assured, Sir, I shall never solicit your permission, nor that of any other man, to indulge my inclinations.—I must candidly declare that I never deemed you a man of much understanding, and your late behaviour has now convinced me, that my opinion was just; I therefore request you will keep your hints and admonitions to yourself, nor dare to repeat your disagreeable visits, or renew your fulsome professions, as I assure you, they will meet with both indifference and contempt by one, who is determined never to be

Your humble servant.

From a young Lady to an old Suitor.

SIR,

I AM obliged by that duty, I owe myself, humbly to request a truce to those addresses, which you have lately honored me with, for fear you may make me guilty of rudeness, which I wish to avoid, especially to a man of your years, as old age, I acknowledge, should always be treated with respect.—To prevent any application to my guardian, I also take the liberty of assuring you that every advocate in your favor, will be in vain, for I am well aware of those evils, which attend unequal matches:—Dotage must fall to the share of the old.—Disgust to the share of the young; mutual wretchedness is the result, instead of mutual happiness.—Please then to reflect coolly on what I have said, and desist from pursuing an object, that never could bring you content. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

From a Lover after receiving wounds in Battle to his Mistress.

MY DEAR CAROLINE,

YOU have often declared before battle had called me away, that not the beauty of my person, but, the accomplishments of my mind, had gained your affections; happy for me, if this be true, for I cannot longer boast of those personal charms, with which my looking glass once flattered me.—I have lost one of my eyes; I am deprived of a leg; but as they are gone in an honorable cause, I hope my
dear

dear Caroline will give me no reason to regret their loss.—I did not think proper to see you, till you were previously prepared for my reception; for fear my appearance might not only shock but disgust.—If therefore you are equally anxious, as I am, for an interview, signify it by an immediate reply, and if agreeable I shall fly on the wings of love to prove myself,

Your devoted servant, &c.

The young Lady's Answer.

DEAR WILLIAM,

IF I grieve and seem unhappy at your misfortunes, my sorrow, believe me, is pure, and proceeds from anxious apprehension that your health may be thereby impaired.—I prayed to heaven to preserve your life; it is preserved and I am thankful! Oh then let me see you as soon as possible, and believe me

Your sincere.

From a young Lady after the Small-pox to her Lover.

SIR,

THE reason of my long silence will now, I hope, appear and plead its own excuse.—You were pleased, when you first honored me with your addresses, to say the beauties of my person were only excelled by the perfections of my mind, if you really preferred the latter, and thought, as you declared, those mental accomplishments were predominant; the loss of my charms, which are now totally spoiled by the severity of the small-pox, is not to be so much regretted. It gives you an happy opportunity of proving yourself to be a man of truth and veracity; by now accepting my hand (which will consequently be accompanied with my heart) when my only recommendation, if I have any, arises from that consideration, which you were pleased to prefer and avow your partiality for. I am, Sir,

Your's.

The Answer.

MY DEAREST MADAM,

THOUGH I confess that the declarations of suitors are in general questionable, and that personal beauty is always most attractive, I hope to prove that it is really your disposition, which I admire. Though I regret your misfortune, I exult in this opportunity of proving my honor and truth; and will be proud to accept your inestimable hand, being accompanied with your heart, whenever my dear Sussannah thinks me worthy of the boon. I am still

Your affectionate and sincere admirer.

From a young Lady to her Seducer.

DEAR HENRY,

I STILL must call you *dear*, though you have wantonly taken away all that is *dear* to me—I expected, agreeable to your promise, to have seen you long before this. Sure you must be conscious of my deplorable situation! I am now pregnant, and dread every day the severe and just rebuke of my friends. You promised that you would make me your wife—I fear that being now satisfied in your wishes you forget—you despise me! Oh Henry, I am innocent and virtuous still, though in this melancholy situation! for, notwithstanding my affection for you, had not you deprived me of my senses by the cruel draught of opium you administered, you should never have succeeded in your impious designs. For heaven's sake let sympathy, if love be entirely flown, move you in my behalf! O think on my helpless situation, and then you must commiserate it! Forsaken and abandoned, what shall I do? My friends will turn their heads—my relations reproach and despise me!—the unfortunate child, which must shortly enter this world of sorrow, will, fatherless, look up to a mother for support! And where is that support? Oh Henry, for the sake of your child relieve your unfortunate mistress, who only wishes for an opportunity to prove with how much delight and tenderness she would fulfil the conjugal duties. I shall say no more at present—it will I know be as disagreeable to you, as it is to me, to dwell on a theme that is so truly melancholy; permit me then to subscribe myself,

Yours most affectionately,

The Seducer's Wife's Answer.

MADAM,

BY an accident, which I must deem fortunate, your letter fell into my hands. I cannot say how much I have ever since hated myself for having accepted a hand which I know is your due; it is therefore my duty not only to pity but relieve you; for which reason you must forget Henry—I would say, the perfidious Henry, however he is my husband, and I must not only forget his errors, but endeavour to love him! I shall never intimate to him the knowledge I have of this business; but secretly I shall allow you a sufficiency every week for your own support; the child, if it lives, shall come home to me, and be under the care of its own father, through the supposition of a foundling; nor shall the infant want a mother in me, for I shall esteem it (if I have any) as one of
my

my own. Should this proposal meet your approbation, the performance will give me infinite satisfaction, as in pity for your wronged innocence, I shall strain every nerve to prove myself,
Your sincere and affectionate friend.

The Answer.

MADAM,

THE noble generosity and exalted benevolence which you have displayed render me almost insensible of the wrongs I have suffered—instead of envying your marriage I pray for your happiness, and invoke heaven, that Henry may be to you, what he never was to me!—but no more of him—it is now a sin for me to think of him being another's? I return my hearty thanks for your promised goodness, and will endeavour to be grateful. I have lately got a boy who entered the world before his time, as it were anxiously to participate the sorrows of his mother!—It is my wish to nurse him myself; for who can be a more tender nurse than his own mother? Should you retain the same inclination you professed, when he is able to run about, I shall contrive some means to let him see you; and though my overflowing gratitude should be proud to acknowledge your kindness publicly, yet as secrecy is as essential towards your happiness as my good, my lips shall be for ever closed! I received the presents you were so generous and thoughtful to send me last week. Alas, were it not for your bounty, my child and self would be destitute and naked, as well as abandoned and forsaken! I am, dear Madam, Your grateful friend and servant.

From a Suitor to his Father relating his ill Success.

HONORED SIR,

I PAID my addresses sometime ago to Miss Faulkland, agreeably to your desire and recommendation, and flattered myself from the many qualifications, ascribed to that young lady, that I should at least meet with civility and politeness; on the contrary, she appeared to me not only reserved, but in many instances, arrogant and supercilious, which I presume from the profound respect and attention I shewed, was a behaviour undeserved. I was however unwilling to judge too hastily of the lady's character, and therefore suffering a few days to elapse, I repeated my visit; but I observed now a stiff formality of deportment, unaccompanied with the least degree of ease and freedom, which are always the result of good breeding. I was resolved however to
come

come to the main point; she took pains to interrupt me by the most frivolous and foreign observations; when I was praising her beauty, as an introduction to my adoration; she was expatiating on the valour of the Duke of York; when I was expressing my admiration of her charms, she was inquiring what comedy was for the evening; in short, when I declared my passion; her answer was, she wondered when the war would terminate; thus rudely, (I must call it) did she introduce the most unseasonable subjects, rung the bell for her servants, on every trifling occasion, flew to the harpsichord to play, then hummed a tune, looked out of the window, in fact, gave me several convincing proofs of her indifference and contempt. I persisted still in my suit, and urged the ardour of my passion, expatiating at times, upon the irresistible power of her beauty (for flattery I deemed agreeable to the ears of every woman) and entreating her for a generous reply; but now she laughed, sung, played, and treated me with more coolness and neglect than before; at last, fired with indignation, I made some hasty remarks upon her conduct, and taking a final leave, departed with a resolution never to see her again.

The extraordinary behaviour of this young lady, I submit to your serious consideration, and request to know, if it be your opinion that I have acted right. I am, dear honoured Sir,

Yours dutifully, &c.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR JACK,

YOU do not know the woman. Miss Faulkland is a lady of a most excellent character, and I still retain the same opinion of her merits; I look upon this behaviour to have been adopted on purpose, to make a trial of your disposition, and certainly she had as much right to be gay and merry, as you had to be fired with indignation. You should not be too prepossessed in favour of yourself, nor arrogantly suppose, that on account of family connections and personal merit, you are entitled to respect. A woman of sense is not to be taken by surprise, nor even by the ordinary formalities of courtship; she requires some time to read the heart, and prove its sincerity and affection; it is not merely the exterior graces of deportment, but the interior graces of the mind, that can recommend a lover to the notice and esteem of a female of judgment; and as I know Miss Faulkland is possessed of both discernment and sense, I therefore advise

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you to renew your addresses in a more submissive and persuasive manner ; supported by sound arguments and honest declarations ; then you need not despair of success ! but that flattery which you confess you made use of, previous to your suit, must offend the ears of every woman of understanding. Be assured that if you win this young lady, you will secure a most valuable wife, that will render life happy and desirable. I am, Your affectionate father, &c.

From a rich Lover, to a young Lady without Fortune.

MY DEAR MADAM,

HAPPINESS, not interest, has ever been the chief of my ambition ; and therefore I have entered a resolution, should the proposal meet with your acquiescence, of making you the sole mistress of my heart, hand, and fortune ; intrinsic merit, is in my opinion, superior to all the gifts of fortune, and as Providence has already favoured me with a competent independance, what occasion have I for more ? Am I not better enabled to gratify my inclinations in the pursuit of merit ? Riches I am resolved, shall be no bar to our happiness, nor preclude me from one of the principal objects of existence. The very amiable qualities, which you possess, are to me of greater value, than bags of wealth ; your perfections and accomplishments are ample compensations for the want of fortune, and, without flattery, I declare I think you are a treasure in yourself. As such I offer you my hand and heart, which if you think worthy of your acceptance, the whole study of my future life, shall be to render the union productive of mutual happiness : be pleased then to think seriously on this proposal, and when you have sufficiently deliberated, by candidly informing me of your determination, you will exceedingly oblige,

A true and sincere admirer.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR.

YOUR honourable proposal demands my warmest thanks and gratitude, and though at present, I cannot think of accepting it, yet time, I hope, will remove every objection ; besides, I think matters of this kind, require proper consideration on all sides : and I wish that you would first of all, consult with your relations and friends, as it would tend much to my unhappiness, if you incurred their displeasure on my account. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant, &c.

From a young Lady to a Friend whose Lover was false.

MY DEAR SOPHIA,

IT is always the duty of friendship to administer consolation to the unhappy; I therefore seize the earliest opportunity of endeavouring to abate your distress, by pointing out greater distresses, which you have fortunately avoided; your lover has been false and perfidious; and your disappointment is consequently mortifying: your good has been returned with evil; your kind offers repaid with ingratitude; but think, my dear, if he had succeeded in his base design, (for his views could never be honorable) how much greater would have been your affliction? Let this consideration moderate your present grief; and likewise think that the wisest of our sex have frequently met with the same ill usage and perhaps worse; in short, if you reflect seriously, you will discover that the very cause of your unhappiness now, will in the end be great occasion for joy; for you have certainly avoided many ills, by not entering the marriage state with a worthless man: it is not easy I know for a feeling mind, to banish the remembrance of an object that was once dear; but with the aid of reason and reflection, time can complete the arduous task. Oh then, my dear Sophia, collect all your fortitude, endeavour to be yourself again; free and happy, and you will be so; with wishes for this noble resolution and the desired effect, I remain,

Yours sincerely, &c.

From a Friend to a foolish Lover.

MY DEAR SIR,

AN early attachment created a friendship between us, that I thought would have been lasting and permanent; but I have lately perceived a great indifference on your side; I am exceedingly concerned for this, conscious that I have given no just reason for a suspension of our intimacy. My regard therefore induces me to write upon the subject; and true friendship, which is always officious about the health and welfare of those we esteem, having prompted me to make enquiries, I have now discovered that you are in love; but why was this concealed from your friend? Love is no crime, no shame; except it is attended with base designs, which then makes it criminal indeed, or ill placed, which renders it a disgrace. My opinion of your integrity and honor, removes the former idea; and being convinced of your prudence and discretion, I cannot doubt the propriety

of your choice; but authorized by friendship and our long intimacy, I must chide you, (and that severely) for both the secrecy and folly of your love; your devotion to your fair one is by all accounts, so constant, that I fear you will counteract, instead of promoting your design; you spend too much time with the lady, by which means, your presence will become so common and troublesome, that your absence may be often desired; the company of your friend is now totally neglected, for that of the young lady; the sight of every visitor is disagreeable; and every subject painful, except the theme of love; be assured my friend, that disappointment and vexation will be the consequence of this overpassion; the lady I expect will become totally indifferent in a few days; her love will terminate in disdain; and you will be both neglected and despised; tho' for the present she may seem to entertain the same regard for you, which you do for her, yet this reiteration of sighs and vows, and vows and sighs will soon exhaust her stock of affection and tenderness, and render her in time languid and cool. Love is such a nice matter, that it requires more œconomy than you are aware; it is equally as bad to be profuse as reserved; I fear my friend is but a novice in the science; occasional separations, though painful as they may be, are absolutely necessary in order to render our future interviews mutually agreeable; nothing can more effectually renew an old flame, nothing revive a languishing one, sooner than absence, which is the chief promoter of love; besides different objects should be occasionally introduced, to render the theme of love more pleasing; else it will be attended with such a sameness that sooner or later it must appal; I hope my friend will pardon me for this seeming officiousness, and attribute the cause to true friendship, for I ingenuously confess, that I have been induced to offer my opinion on this occasion, because I have been thereby deprived of the society of a man, whom I have long held in the greatest estimation, and in whose service, I shall always be happy to prove myself;

His affectionate and sincere friend, &c.

From a Friend to a Lover on the Imprudence of his Choice.

DEAR SIR,

AS friendship should always be sincere and open, I have taken both an early and private opportunity of stating some facts, which, though disagreeable for me to relate, and

you

you to hear, are certainly worthy your attention, as your future happiness thereupon depends.

With the eye of sincere friendship for you, I have long perceived the capricious conduct and behaviour of Miss Govey, and am led to entertain great doubts of her love and constancy; I admit the qualifications of her birth; the strong recommendation of her beauty; and the attraction of her fortune: but what are all these considerations? What avail her lineage, charms, and money, if love be not reciprocal? My friend should be wary; he ought not to set his affection upon objects which may never be his: for my part I should scorn to pay my addresses, where once they have been repulsed; or seek the favour of a woman, whose heart is either alienated by being another's, or unsettled by being nobody's. I have some notion that this young lady you are now pursuing, notwithstanding the encouragement she gives you, is engaged to another; be therefore advised, and suppress a flame which if cherished longer, may be dangerous; the authority on which I speak is upon seeing her picture on Lord Brilliant's finger; his lordship has also boasted of her partiality for him; these, my friend, are serious considerations; let me then persuade you to recover your senses by returning to the pleasures of society, re-uniting yourself with your old intimate, and particularly,

Your sincere and affectionate friend.

From a Wit to his Mistress.

MADAM,

I TAKE the liberty of assuring you that you must either pull out your eyes, or I must pull out mine—that's a fact. You must either not be so handsome, or I must be blind—that's another. Though my passion be as violent as any lover's need be, I hope you will not expect that I should either hang or drown myself; for believe me, madam, I shall do neither. I should certainly betray great want of sense and little knowledge of your merit, if I was inclined to leave the world while you were in it. To deal sincerely with you, Madam, I choose infinitely the happiness of beings with you, before the glory of dying for you; besides I entertain such a good opinion of your sense, as to believe you prefer a living lover to a dead one; the lips that are warm and ready to imprint a thousand sweet kisses to those that are cold and closed for ever! the limbs which are animated with motion, to those that are lifeless and good for nothing:

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but, Madam, if I must die, pray kill me with your kindness, not with your cruelty; I had much rather expire upon your bosom than at your feet; should you be tenderly inclined to give me a death of this sort, I am ready to receive it immediately, on any ground, in the three kingdoms:—Appoint but your place and time, and I will not fail to meet my fair murderer.

Your's for ever.

From a Husband to his Friend on the extravagance of his Wife.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM exceedingly sorry to be under the necessity of requesting your assistance, on a business disagreeable and painful; but in such a situation, to whom can we apply for aid and advice, but our bosom friends?—The extravagance of my wife is beyond all bounds; she is out every night, and I am deprived of the domestic comforts, which should be the attendants on matrimony; she has often broken my repose, but she shall never break my heart.—I am determined that we shall separate, till she becomes sensible of her folly and dissipation; as you were witness to our fortunate marriage, I hope you will now be witness of this temporary divorce. I shall send her to my sister, and make her a proper annual allowance; but I am resolved, if she idly lavishes what I give her, instead of encreasing, to diminish the same; and if she involves me more in debt, to advertise and abandon her for ever!—If I find she repents of her folly, and wishes to become wife, I shall not only be happy to forget the past, but proud to receive her again to my arms!

This world being scurrilous and censorious, I think it my duty herein to assure you, (who will, I know assure every body else, when occasion requires) that I have not the least reason to call her virtue in doubt; in this respect, I believe her the best wife in all the world, and for this noble quality I regret sincerely, that her imperfections prevent us from enjoying true happiness together. I am, dear Sir,

Your afflicted friend.

The Friend's Answer.

MY LORD,

I NEVER found the task of friendship and sympathy more difficult and painful in all my life.—I have long seen your lady's defects; long pitied your lordship's situation and dreaded this sad effect; but still I hope that this sorrow

is the forerunner of joy; a heavy shower always brings sunshine: unknown to my friend, and in pity for his sufferings, I fought your lady, and reproved her, with all the tender eloquence I was master of: At first, I believe, I was deemed rude and impertinent; but on this occasion, I took the liberty of disclosing the contents of your letter, which had such a happy effect, that I hope separation is now unnecessary; as a proof of her sudden reformation, she has renounced her former acquaintance, and is determined neither to see visitors, nor pay visits, except in your company, and with your permission.—She has prayed me to be an advocate in her favor, and I must now request, your lordship, for my sake, will forget the errors of her youth, and for the preservation of that virtue, which you admire—change your intentions. A wife, absent from her husband is exposed to many temptations and evils; for want of that protection, which she has a right to, she may meet with insults which otherwise she could avoid. Pray then consider the danger, as well as now (I presume) the inutility of separation; and that connubial happiness may soon return and continue, by changing the bitters you have felt, to endless sweets, is the sincere wish of
Your faithful friend, &c.

From a Lady just married to her Friend.

DEAR NANCY,

DO not stare at a strange name at the bottom of this letter; she that writes to you, was Miss Richards, but my lover insisted upon my taking his name; what cannot these men do when they persuade us out of our very titles?—I send you herewith a pair of gloves, a ribbon, and bit of bridal cake; (between you and me it was the sweetest cake I ever eat.) You remember that the late Miss Richards and you, entered into a bargain, that which ever married first, should send this present to the other; if you have been married before yesterday, you need not send it back to me; make it two pair of gloves, two ribbons, and double the quantity of cake; if you are not, my dear Nancy, take a friend's advice, and marry as soon as you can.

I believe, you will find that marriage has not taken away my spirits, and indeed by what I see of it, I do not think it ever will. One may have occasion to be grave sometimes, when the *children* are cross, or dirty, or sick; but that need not make one unhappy for ever. Excuse me, my dear, for
not

not writing a long letter; you must surely know that the time of a woman, who has not been married above fourteen hours, is exceedingly precious and scarce. I have only told Mr Sedgwick I must have a moment to write to the person in the world I love next himself. Adieu. I suppose I shall see you soon.

Yours, &c.

A Congratulating Answer.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

THOUGH I had some reason to think that you were approaching the indissoluble bond, yet I had no apprehension that the change would have been so sudden: I pleased myself with the thoughts of being your companion and confident, in the agreeable task of making preparations; but herein you have disappointed, for the evident pleasure of surprising me; however, as I have no doubt of your happiness, I sincerely rejoice in the event. May your felicity be long and uninterrupted, and every thing conspire to render it complete. My papa speaks very handsomely of the man of your choice; may he live long and always deserve so fair a character and so deserving a bride; and may my dear friend live long too, to reward his merit, and delight her friends!—Being a spinster still, I have kept your presents, and return thanks for your remembering your bargain.—I thought the cake as sweet as you did; may it be the means of everlasting sweets! I am, my dear Eliza,

Yours, sincerely, &c.

From a Clergyman to a new married Couple.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IHAVE taken the liberty of offering a few hints (it being my lot, amongst other offices of my function, to join your hands, according to the sacred rites of our church) respecting the nature and obligation of that awful state, which you have entered by mutual consent. The Holy Scripture has in many places, particularly the epistles, sufficiently explained the general design of this institution, and as you might lately have observed, a select part thereof was read to you upon the solemnization of the marriage rites, well worthy of your private consideration.—I think it my duty to assure you, that the obligations of husband and wife are reciprocal, or in other words, there are certain duties, which the man owes the woman, and the woman the man; your performance

formance of which 'is highly essential towards future peace and tranquillity; but if sincere affection for each other dwell within your breasts, and that your motives for entering this state are really well founded, there is very little occasion for friendly admonition or council, as that love for each other will not only inform you of your duties, but likewise inspire you to fulfil them. You will then love and cherish each other, you will then participate each others joy or grief, resulting from prosperity or adversity; in short, you will live for each other. The husband by industry and sobriety will endeavour to provide honestly for his family, and the wife will diligently employ herself in all the necessary duties of domestic concern; by this care and assiduity, to promote each others welfare, a mutual affection will take such deep root, that nothing but death can dissolve it! That this may always prove the happy lot of my dear young friends, is the sincere wish of

Your's, &c.

From a humours Lover to his Fair One.

MISS, or, MY DEAR MISS,—or,

MY MOST DEAR YOUNG LADY,

DID you ever see an Almanack in your life!—You may say this is an odd question.—I will give the reason then why I ask it: There is an odd sort of a fellow, usually pictured in it, Madam, with the devil knows how many darts in his body: and what of him? You will cry—Nothing, Madam, but that he is only a type of your very humble servant; for that little rogue, Cupid, has so pinked me all over with his confounded arrows, that I look like—let me think—like what?—your ladyship's pincussion!—but this is not all;—your eyes had like to have proved more fatal to me, than Cupid and all his roguery; for Madam, while I was star-gazing the other night at your window; full of fire and flame (as we lovers use to be) I dropt plumb into your fish-pond: By the same token, I hissed like a red-hot horse-shoe flung into a smith's trough—It was a hundred pound to a penny, but I had been drowned; for those that came to my assistance, left me in this sad pickle to shift for myself; because forsooth!—laughing had so conquered their sides, that they were incapable of affording me the desired aid.—Secing some fish (very good, I presume, when drest) approaching me with an air that seemed to question me what business I had there? I took the liberty of catching a few
of

of my fellow-sufferers; of which I intend to make an offering to your ladyship, as well of, Madam,

Your devoted slave, &c.

 To all our Readers, as wish for further assistance, advice, or information, relative to the pleasing subjects of *Love, Courtship, and Marriage*, we would recommend MR. FREEMAN'S COMPLETE LOVER'S INSTRUCTOR, and NEW VALENTINE WRITER; a very valuable Book, Price only 1s. published by ALEX. HOGG, No. 16, Paternoster Row, London.

LETTERS ON MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.

From an Uncle to his Nephew on Friendship.

MY DEAR BOB,

NOT having much time I cannot dwell long upon a subject, which if illustrated with every just argument, would undoubtedly form a packet. I have observed in all your letters, that you are either going to see, or expect a visit from some new friend—friend—were they indeed friends you are the happiest man in the world, for you have certainly a greater number than any of *your* friends can boast. I am not against your being complaisant to strangers, nor desirous of abridging you in any necessary or innocent liberty, or to prescribe too much to the choice of a friend: but a few hints I think are absolutely necessary—You must not think every man, whose conversation is agreeable, fit to be immediately treated and trusted as a friend. Friendships hastily contracted, promise the least duration and satisfaction, as they commonly arise from design on one hand, and weakness on the other. True friendship must be the effect of long, mutual esteem and knowledge. It ought to have for its cement an equality of years, a similitude of manners, and, perhaps, a parity in circumstance and degree—this last, however, is not always essential: it is certainly in the power of the affluent to display real friendship and benevolence towards the indigent; but generally speaking, an opening to a stranger carries with it strong marks of indiscretion, and ends too often in repentance.

Some of your friends (as you call them) are, I fear, more suited to the tea-table than the cabinet—be therefore very careful of your new associates, nor make them friends without previously knowing their characters. This caution, believe me, is the pure effect of my experience in life, and af-
fection

fection for you, it being my wish on every opportunity, and occasion, to prove myself, Your affectionate uncle, &c.

From a Student to his Friend.

DEAR SIR,

YOU mistake, I do not lead a solitary life; for, though constantly alone, I am always in company, and my company too, are far more entertaining and instructive than all your friends and bottle companions. My great ambition is to have a good library, that whoever calls upon me, whether a friend to religion, history, poetry, or romance, may have his inclinations gratified: permit me, then to give you the following commission; an opportunity may arrive when I can return the compliment. I give you a list of books which I want to complete my present number—whatever they may come to, your expences shall be defrayed: first of all, procure me, “The Christian’s New and Complete British Family Bible, by Dr. Wright,” with his “Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer;”—Howard’s New Royal Encyclopædia;—“Captain Cook’s Voyages round the World, selected by Portlock;”—“Spencer’s History of England;”—“Baldwyn’s System of Geography;”—“Walcott’s Complete Natural History;”—“Wright’s edition of Fox’s Book of Martyrs;”—“Walpoole’s British Traveller;”—Thornton’s History and Survey of London;—“Groses’s Antiquities of England and Wales, folio;”—“Bunyan’s Works, by Mason;”—“Porney’s Collection of Novels and Romances;”—“Morgan’s Complete Sportsman;”—“Hogg’s New and Complete English Farmer;”—“Price’s Complete Confectioner, and Book of Cookery,” (these I want for my sister;)—“The Young Man’s Companion, by Brown;”—“Bettesworth’s Ready Reckoner and Tables of Interest;”—“Stanhope’s Lady’s Polite Tutores,” (for my sister also);—“Sir John Fielding’s Jest;”—“The New Art of Speaking;”—“New London Spy and Cheats of London, by King;”—“The Universal Fortune-Teller,” (this I wish to make a present of to my aunt);—“The Lover’s Instructor,” (I want particularly for myself);—“Bradshaw’s Josephus;”—“Johnson’s New Biographical Dictionary, 8 vols.”—“Adam’s improved Edition of Guthrie’s Geography;”—“Dr. Markham’s New and Complete Life of Christ and his Apostles;”—all these you will procure at the lowest terms at the King’s Arms, in Paternoster Row; please also to send me a general list of Mr. Hogg’s useful Publications, and

and every new play and pamphlet,—which will exceedingly oblige, Dear Sir,
 Your very humble Servant, &c.

An Ironical Letter to a Slanderer.

SIR,

THE particular assiduity you have displayed in defending my character, when a middle-aged, squint-eyed, short, impertinent fellow was practising every unjust means, and exerting all his feeble endeavours to sully it, highly deserves my thanks. I own myself your debtor so much, that I am apprehensive it will never be in my power to repay you; I wish every person would follow your example—How noble, how illustrious the pattern—you scorn to wound the reputation of your neighbour—you despise the poor mean practice of calumny which hurts, perhaps ruins, the name and character of a man, which should be always his greatest care to preserve.

You will be so kind, I hope, as to receive this poor acknowledgment of your goodness, as a small token of gratitude; and whenever I experience the same civility and benevolent interposition again, pardon me, if I should be tempted to make my private thanks more public. I am

Your much obliged servant.

From a Friend to another on Time.

DEAR SIR,

IT is a common proverb among the Jews, that “he who breeds not up his son to some trade, makes him a thief;” and the Arabians say, that “an idle person is the devil’s play-fellow;” it is therefore the mandate of their prophet Mahomet, that they should exercise themselves every day in some manual occupation. The sultan on his throne is not more exempt from obedience to this universal precept than he who attends him. The soul of man is active as fire, and can no more cease from being busy than water can withhold itself from running out at every hole of a sieve. Men should always exert their faculties one way or other, and there is no medium between good and evil; whosoever is not employed in the one must necessarily fall into the other. These are the points to which all the lines of human actions tend; the center where all our affairs meet; but though there be no such thing as mediocrity between these two extremes, and every man is within the circumference of virtue or vice, yet there are certain degrees and steps in each; specific differences

ferences also which take their rise and proportion from nature, morality and religion. Thus human providence teaches us of two evils to choose the least, while the divine oracle instructs us not to stand upon niceties and punctilios with virtue, but to push forward till we arrive at heroism.

You are, perhaps, curious to know how I employ my hours of leisure? I will inform you then; I make watches, not knowing how better to spend my vacant time, than in framing an instrument whereby I may perceive how time passes away: this little engine points out every minute, and measures exactly the succession of hours; it keeps pace with years, yet outruns not months. It is the journal of the sun, a faithful record of his daily travel through the heavens. In a word, it is the secretary of time, and a compendious history of the first-born issue of eternity.

May the Being who moves all things, yet is moved of none, who sets all the springs and wheels of nature going, yet remains himself in eternal rest, beholding all things past, present, and to come, with one undivided glance, guard and protect us here, and give us eternal happiness hereafter!

Your's.

A Challenge.

SIR,

THE epithets which you were pleased to bestow upon my late conduct, being in my opinion illiberal and impertinent, I demand that satisfaction due to injured honor—And therefore insist upon your meeting me to-morrow, with whatever friend you think proper, in order to settle this business agreeable to the laws of honor. I am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

SIR,

YOU are a young man without a family; I have a wife and three children; my life being dear to them, is consequently dear to me; nor do I think I could meet my audit with Christian fortitude, did I wilfully enter the road of death, and leave a widow and fatherless infants to bewail my loss! and for what? because a mere empty butterfly (as I must call you) thinks proper to fire a pistol or two: if you wish me to meet you, please to provide for my wife and children, in case of danger, and I will then prove my valour and courage. As your fortune enables you to perform

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this,

this, if you deny, the cowardice is upon your side; and you must accordingly expect to be publicly reproached and for ever despised

By yours, &c.

From a Lady to her Friend on Solitude.

DEAR JULIA,

HERE in the country, far from noisy town, I enjoy such true and uninterrupted bliss, while only the presence of my friend is wanting to complete my joy.

Nothing perhaps is more terrible to the imagination than absolute solitude; yet I must own, that such a retreat as disengages the mind from those interests and passions, which mankind generally pursue, appears to me the most certain way to happiness; quietly to withdraw from the croud, and leave the gay and ambitious to divide the honors and pleasures of the world, without being a rival or competitor in any of these advantages, must leave a person in perfect and unenvied repose

Let me lose the remembrance of this busy world, and hear no more of its distracting tumults! Ye vain grandeurs of the earth! Ye perishing riches and fantastic pleasures, what are your proudest boast? Can you yield undecaying delights, joys becoming the dignity of reason, and the capacities of an immortal mind? Ask the happy spirits above, at what price they value their enjoyments? Ask them, if the whole creation should purchase one moment's interval of their bliss?—No: one beam of celestial light, obscures and casts a reproach on all the beauty this world can boast!

This is talking in buskins you will think, and indeed I may resign crowns and scepters, and give up the grandeurs of the world, with as much imaginary triumph, as a hero might fight battles, and conquer armies in a dream. Yours, &c.

From a Friend to another on Pride and Epitaphs.

DEAR SIR,

THE vanity of mankind has made such a deep impression upon my spirits, that I cannot forbear making it my present theme.—Pride even follows us to our grave, or why those towering monuments, those vain and pompous epitaphs!—merely to tell the reader that underneath is a heap of dust! I was surprised to hear sometime ago, that a gentleman of the name of John Oaks, had bequeathed five hundred pounds by his will, to the author of an epitaph that should

should be approved of by his executors,—Numbers were presented by all the minor poets of both sexes, but all disapproved of under pretence they were not true. On account of this general rejection the executor was obliged to write the epitaph himself, for which he was also obliged to pocket the five hundred pounds.

If this man after death could have been sensible how much his design was abused, it would I think have been a sufficient punishment for his pride. I am, Yours, &c.

A Recommendation of an Author to a Man of Rank and Influence.

I HAVE taken the liberty of recommending to your grace, the bearer, who is the author of several fugitive pieces. I believe his merit is considerable; but for want of friends, he remains in obscurity; his great misfortune is poverty, however, by means of your grace's benevolent patronage, he may in time be able to surmount it, which will confer a lasting obligation on your grace's,

Most obedient and respectful servant, &c.

From an Uncle to his Nephew on Dress.

TOM,

I SHOULD have spoken to you last Sunday, when I met you at Kensington, but did not know you; indeed, I do not believe you know yourself; Where did you get that fine embroidered waistcoat? A magnificent appearance becomes persons of rank, but when private persons arrogate pomp and ostentation, they destroy that distinction, which should be between them and public characters; besides they incur hatred and envy, without deriving any advantage, though many are foolishly fond of making what they call a figure in the world; but thus making a figure, through motives of vanity and ignorance, is only making one coxcomb stare at another. Now, Tom, that you know my sentiments, I hope you will never let me see you in that dress again, for fear I may be tempted to spoil it on your back, by plunging you into the first convenient kennel.—Read Æsop's Jackdaw, that stole the peacock's feathers; the fable is very applicable to those poor upstarts, who would fain appear very great. I am, Yours, &c.

From a Friend to another in Confinement for Debt.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IT is hard and lamentable indeed that misfortunes, not crimes, should deprive so many honest characters of their liberty.

liberty. Prisons were never intended for innocent men. My heart feels most sincerely for those poor sufferers, torn from their wives and children, by inexorable creditors, who, under pretence of compelling them to pay their debts, deprive them of all means of earning bread, and increase both their debts and expences.—How many are deprived of freedom by unjust arrests and impositions, who for want of friends to bail them, must submit to a *felon's* situation and find no redress!—These suggestions struck me, when informed of your situation: your case is equally deplorable, being in a cruel manner oppressed by a usurer and lodged, hopeless and moneyless, in a spunging-house, but you are not friendless, of course there is hope!—I presume I shall be able to procure another with myself, who will bail you immediately: I wish every person, who unjustly commits a fellow creature to prison may be severely punished for the same! He deserves but little pity himself in the hour of calamity, who, though the debt be just, gives no indulgence, when the debtor has no means!—What good does it produce? Except feeding bailiffs and keepers of lock-up houses, who live on the distresses of the unhappy! I am, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

From a Cousin to another on making and breaking Promises.

DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE more than once remarked how very prone you are to make promises; but, I seldom or ever knew you to fulfil one:—This I must confess has very much hurt your character; some people have in consequence called you a liar; others more mild, a fool:—Instead of making friends by it, you have certainly lost many. As you subject yourself to be frequently teased and insulted by this foolish custom, I wonder you do not drop it. Were I to repeat my visits every day till you fulfilled all the promises you made me since last week, I fear I should soon become troublesome and disagreeable: and I assure you if you do not drop this mode of promising without any intention of performing, I will not only adopt the measure, but persuade your other acquaintance to follow my example. I am, dear cousin,

Yours, &c.

From an elder Brother to the Younger on Habits.

DEAR BROTHER,

I MUST entreat you will be particular how you contract bad habits of any kind; like the envenomed shirt of Hercules,

ledge of any kind, and consequently must give up the glorious aim of rendering himself useful and conspicuous in any capacity or station of life. Wisdom is not to be won without great assiduity and constant application. She must be sought for early and attended late. But he, who consumes his hours in idle sauntering or buries them in morning slumbers, shall never see the light of fame, any more than that of the sun rising upon him. I am, my dear brother,
Yours, &c.

From a Young Lady to a Gentleman.

SIR,

NATURE it is said never produced any thing without some motive and design.—I wish to know the utility of fools; I do not mean those witty fools of former days, who were so remarkably pertinent and shrewd—but the mere empty fools of the present time. I cannot for my life conceive what advantage they are to society, except it is to afford others an opportunity of displaying their wisdom.—Your opinion will exceedingly oblige, Sir,

Your humble servant.

The Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR LAURA,

I RECEIVED your pretty lively letter, and am now preparing to consider the question you have started, relating to fools.

As Nature is said to have made nothing in vain, what apology then for fools? This difficulty which has so long puzzled the learned I will offer you two solutions to answer; one by denying, and the other admitting the fact.

First then, I deny that Nature ever made a fool, but as she makes any other monster; not by design, but through some accidental imperfection in the organs of conception, or casual event happening afterwards to the infant in the cradle.

Next, I admit fools to have been made by design, and no offence to you, shall take the liberty to offer you this hypothesis of the matter.

Providence made man, and seeing it not good that man should be alone, made woman; then, seeing it not good that woman should be alone, he made a fool; before which time it is said she amused herself with the Devil;—since, heaven, and fools have divided the favours of the fair. I am, my fair querist.

Your faithful respondent.

Recom-

Recommending a Relation to a Gentleman of Rank.

SIR,

THE gentleman who delivers this letter is a near relation, but whom I esteem myself more alied to by friendship than consanguinity. Convinced of your late kindness to me, I take the liberty of recommending him to your notice, assuring you, that whatever services are rendered him, will exceedingly add to the obligations of, Sir,

Your much obliged servant, &c.

The Answer.

SIR,

I HAD the pleasure of your cousin's company to dinner yesterday; the young gentleman's conduct and behaviour are so very engaging, that, I assure you, both for his and his relative's sake, I shall do all in my power to serve him,

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

Recommending a Son to an intimate Friend.

SIR,

THE unviolated friendship which has subsisted so long between us, induces me to recommend to your notice, the bearer, who is my son; persuaded that for his father's sake, you will serve him according to the best of your ability.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

The Answer.

SIR,

YOU have exceedingly obliged me, by giving an opportunity of proving my friendship.—I hope shortly to be able to afford a test; though, notwithstanding I shall use all my influence, I never shall be able to serve your son, as much as he deserves. I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

From a Friend to another on Law-Suits.

SIR,

THE tediousness and embarrassments of law-suits are really provoking; you know my disposition, I would be peaceable if I could; but my relations and their attornies wont let me. You must be conscious that all the disputes between my father-in-law and me, are occasioned entirely by himself and his evil advisers.—I am innocently led into a law-suit, the termination of which is very uncertain by the artful contrivance of his attornies; such is my wish to in-

sure

sure quietness and harmony, that though I have no right to yield a halfpenny to my father-in-law, still I would be very happy to compromise for the sake of peace and happiness:—Last term the old gentleman has brought a bill in Chancery against me:—The trustees have also applied to the Court of Exchequer:—While one of the lawyers has persuaded a nephew of mine, to make a claim (without any just cause) to the estate.—Thus my friend am I harrassed and compelled to live in continual discord with relations, whom I would fain love and respect. I am, dear Sir, Yours, &c.

From the same in Continuation.

DEAR SIR,

MY father-in-law has absolutely refused to compromise, notwithstanding his interest is so much concerned:—The man is certainly deluded by his counsellors, who have, it seems, fed him with hopes of success, in spite of justice and equity.—It is amazing to me how some characters delight in law-suits, and are never happy, but when they are contending, and that, frequently on the most frivolous occasion—but thus it is that barristers and attornies live. I am in my own defence obliged to employ some; and now instead of partaking social happiness, enjoying my friends and the benefit of the air, my time is monopolized with running from one inn of court to another, and hearing tedious scrawls of unmeaning repetitions from morning till night; the sound of which is as disagreeable to my ears, as the cutting of cork. I am, Your distressed friend, &c.

A Lady to her Friend raising a Subscription for a distressed Person.

MY DEAR HARRIOT,

THE distresses of poor Mrs. Williams, who once enjoyed all the tranquil pleasures of this life, without the least suspicion of these her present misfortunes, have so exceedingly moved my sympathy, that being unable myself to relieve her, as I wish, I intend by the assistance of my friends to render her circumstances more easy if possible.—I have therefore resolved to open a subscription for her among my acquaintance, and if my dear Harriot will exert her influence, where she is, she will not only have the hearty prayers of this unfortunate woman, but the grateful thanks of her sincere friend. I am, Yours, &c.

The

The Friend's Answer.

MY DEAR ANN,

YOUR favour has convinced me that you still retain that generosity and nobleness of mind, which have been so long the characteristics of my friend. I should be wanting both in esteem for my dear Sophia, and pity for the distressed, if I did not comply immediately with her request. There is no one of us exalted as we may be at present, can insure the continuance of prosperity; as therefore in cases of misfortune we would expect relief ourselves, we should always be ready to relieve the necessitous. You may be sure of my name at least in the subscription book;—provided the donations are not to be published; for ostentation in charity, totally destroys, in my opinion, all effect on the part of the donor. I am, my dear friend,

Yours, &c.

From a Friend to another on Peevishness.

SIR,

I AM very sorry to remark, my dear friend, that the most common accidents of this life are too apt to ruffle your temper—it gives me much uneasiness; for peevishness instead of profiting generally does much harm; besides a man exposes himself, who wants fortitude and patience; those great and amiable virtues, which our religion so forcibly enjoins! during our correspondence, I have remarked some parts of your letters exceedingly splenetic and warm; in this, you are both unkind to yourself and your friend—you seem to doubt the purity of his mind, and pay no respect to your own merit, when so constantly in the vapours. I am now resolved, in hopes to effect a happy cure, never to take notice of any letter that displays the least peevishness or complaint, presuming, by this silence, I shall prove myself,

Your sincere friend.

From the same to the same on Anger.

DEAR SIR,

YOU wish to know my opinion of anger; in some instances it is proper, and in many others sinful. A man would be a very inanimate creature indeed, if he were not susceptible of insults but then his passion should be momentary, under the controul of pity and inclined to forgiveness. The father is justly angry with his child, when he chastises him for an error: I am angry with my friend, when I re-

prove

prove his folly: In Scripture we read, "Be angry and sin not,"—a man therefore may be angry; but when anger is uncontrouled by reason, it then becomes a sin: 'The transgressor is blinded with passion; the angry man rages in vain, for a cool disputant gains the cause. It is therefore our duty to check these sallies of anger, before it is too late by being the cause of many evils. Such is the opinion of,
Sir, Yours, &c.

A Lady to her Friend on the Fondness of married People before Friends.

YOU ask me, dear Jenny, why I don't marry? I shall be brief and give you two very substantial reasons: I am afraid my husband may either hate me or be too fond of me, for one I think as bad as the other. You cannot conceive what an utter aversion I have taken to the disgusting *loveèes* and *dearys* of married people. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, who are constantly here, are so frequently lolling on each other and kissing, that I could not forbear taking notice: Modesty blushes at the sight, and it is always my opinion that such overflowing love will soon be overturned and leave an empty vessel. I am, Yours, sincerely, &c.

From a plain Gentleman to a ceremonious Friend.

DEAR JACK,

IF you wait for forms and compliments, and so forth, I shall never, I foresee, have the pleasure of your company.—I despise what you are pleased to term the *etiquette*; therefore if you wait for a visit from me, I do not know when it will be, for I never walk that way, its so inconvenient to my business: in short, to wave ceremony (for I hate ceremony, being always a plain man) I dine every day at three o'clock, nor would I exceed that hour for the best friend in the world! Whenever you are inclined to dirty one of my knives and forks, you are exceedingly welcome, provided you will not dirty my room with scrapes and bows, for I hate them.

A humorous Letter from a Friend to another upon Wishes.

SIR,

IMUST agree with friend Horace, that notwithstanding all our possessions, we fain would be having; if a man had the whole world, I dare say he would wish for the other: In short, we are never to be content; though our right hand be

be full, we would hold out the left; and should Providence overload both, we would, doubtless, put the gifts into our pockets and empty our hands for future favours; however I presume, that I am an exception to this rule—Heaven has given me a wife; I never desire to have two! I have three children, and never wish to have more! My friends too are so numerous, that with gratitude. I confess, I have enough,
I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

A humorous Letter in Answer.

SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING your boasting, it is my opinion, that you are as guilty of wishing as any body else; when your lady and you, according to matrimonial custom, have quarrelled, did you never wish yourself dead—(I would not presume *the lady*)—when one of your children has been crying did you never wish yourself deaf? When your friend has intruded, *sans ceremony*, did you never wish—yourself away (I do not mean *him*). We are all induced to wish now and then. Castle building in the air so entertains the imagination, that we find a pleasure in deceiving ourselves; Thus, I remember, my poor grandmother was a rich woman; when lame, she wished for a pair of legs; but Mercury did not hear her; and I was obliged to call in a mechanic, who proved labour of greater utility and profit than wishes; for by his art he supplied her with a pair of crutches.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

From a Man who had gone aboard a Vessel to his Friend.

DEAR JACK,

AS every person in liquor is liable both to deception, and imprudence you need not wonder at my present situation, when I inform you that I was totally insensible of what I was about when I went aboard the —. Inebriety I am convinced is no excuse for a hasty action; were my sufferings only touching myself, I would not ask for commiseration—I should be happy to serve my king and country had I no family depending on my industry and presence. Oh Jack when I think on the calamitous situation of a forsaken wife with her destitute little ones, I must wish myself at home in spite of patriotic sentiments or thirst for fame. I request, therefore, on the receipt of this that you will endeavour to find a man that may supply my place, or intercede in my behalf that I may return to a wretched forlorn

lorn family. My regard for my king and country is surely evident when I forgot my wife and family; but when reason and recollection returned, I was too well assured as I had not wherewithal to leave behind for my wife's support, that her situation must be as melancholy as a widow's, and my little ones be as equally distressed as orphans. Your pity then, and intercession will be gratefully acknowledged and remembered by,

Your sincere well-wisher.

From a Man who had enlisted to his Friend.

DEAR JOSEPH,

BY an imprudent connection with a set of unthinking men, I have unfortunately entered his Majesty's service; I say unfortunately, because I am totally unfit for military exercise. My ill state of health and feebleness of body, are ill-suited for the duties of a soldier; you will therefore exceedingly oblige me by reporting my inability, as I can possibly derive no credit from a soldier's station, nor be of any service to my king and country. It is needless to say how or when I listed. Happy for my contemporaries, I think that they have got some employment. Should they now perish in the field they die with honor, whereas if they pursued their extravagance and dissipation at home, an ignominious death might be their untimely fate; depending on your assiduity and attention. I remain, dear Joseph, Yours, sincerely,

The Answer.

MY DEAR GEORGE,

I WAS exceedingly sorry to hear that evil communications should corrupt your good manners; it is happy for the country I acknowledge that men can be easily attained, when their services are wanted, and happy for those men that they can be thus employed, whereas drunkenness and idleness might expose them to many misfortunes; but I am surprised how some people can do it without previously considering—this is no time, however, for moralizing, the old adage says, "What's done cannot be undone." I presume this will be a future lesson; it is proper that we should sometimes experience the dire effects of our imprudence and indiscretion, that we may be the more wise and cautious; in a short time after the receipt of this, you will have your discharge, for I have represented your lameness in such a manner that the serjeant will be very happy to get rid of you; but if ever you are guilty of the same folly again, and by unthinking intoxication

intoxication fall into the same predicament, I hope you may be obliged to march two or three weeks without intermission upon your sore leg, Yours, sincerely, &c.

From a Gentleman to a Female Relation on Chastity.

DEAR NANCY,

OF all the graces which adorn the conduct of females, none I think can more powerfully operate to prepossess mankind in their favour than chastity. Without it, wit is impertinence and beauty abject deformity. The ancients were particularly remarkable for this virtue. In the character of Lucretia this eminent female quality is described in the most lively colours. After having with just abhorrence rejected the embraces of Sextus, she was at last through absolute necessity obliged to yield to his outrageous request. And finding her inexorable by entreaty, he had recourse to menaces. He said, unless you will suffer me to gratify a passion which your beauty has kindled, I will put you and one of your slaves to the sword, and report I killed you both in the base act of adultery: There was no alternative, she must be either stigmatised for an unlawful intercourse with her slave, without possibility of vindicating herself or yield to the solicitations of a base usurper of her husband's rights.

What a conflict between *duty* with eternal infamy and *shame*, without the possibility of exculpating herself. She who had hitherto shewn herself proof against the artful insinuations of her seducer, was now obliged to yield to his menaces.

Early next morning she sent for her father and her husband, letting the latter know his bed was violated. They besought her to ease her agitated mind, and promised to vindicate her injured chastity; but no entreaties could prevail. She took a dagger, which she had concealed under her garment, and plunging it into her heart, declared, that no one should live unchaste, and cite Lucretia is an example to sanction the deed. In this story, we see female chastity admirably pourtrayed, nor is it less so in the character of Penelope. Her husband Ulysses, after having assisted at the siege of Troy, endured innumerable hardships by sea and land, and at a great distance from his house. Many suitors admired Penelope, and had recourse to every imaginary artifice to make a conquest of her. But she lent a deaf ear to their entreaties and menaces, and preserved her character inviolate with the most invincible fortitude.—She preferred her husband on his return old and decrepid, to the splendor of courts and equipage of kings.

GENUINE EDIT.

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Copy

Copy, my dear Nancy, these examples of unparalleled chastity, which are communicated by an affectionate friend, as well as a relative, who is studious for your welfare, and attached to your sex.

Yours, &c.

A Clergyman to a Gentleman of Rank in behalf of Poor Supplicants.

MY LORD,

I HAVE taken up my pen in behalf of an unfortunate family, who have been deprived of their little all by a dreadful fire. I would to heaven that it was in my power to relieve those wretched supplicants, who from a state of happy competency are now reduced to beggary and extreme indigence. I have promised my feeble assistance, and therefore solicit your lordship's benevolence.

Charity is a goddess enthroned in the human heart—she never appears with greater lustre than when in the exercise of her divine attribute. Her chiefest pleasure is to search into the private apartments of the afflicted, that her ear may not be hurt even by the whisper of praise: when her pity is guided by discernment, and the favors she confers are proportioned in the merit of the receiver, then she is doubly amiable. Her goodness droppeth, “As the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath,” and like mercy blesses both the giver and receiver. As the morning dew revives the drooping power, so does charity spread gladness on the countenance of the *distrest*, and the sensations of delight she enjoys in the hours of reflection are more exquisite than those which agitate the bosom of the object at the moment it receives relief.

Having thus far expatiated upon the blessings of Charity, it is unnecessary, I hope, to add more to stimulate such whom heaven hath endued with plenty in the practice and exercise thereof.—Convinced of your lordship's inclination to benevolence, I have taken this opportunity of hinting necessitous situation of these poor sufferers knowing your lordship's amiable characteristics, which only want an opportunity of displaying themselves. I am, your lordship's, &c.

REV. SIR,

The Answer.

YOU have done me great honor by your application and it is with extreme pleasure that I herein inclose a Bank note for the relief of those poor people you have recommended. We are all liable to misfortunes, and should therefore assist each other. I shall repeat this sum at a future period, provided you will be so kind as to conceal the donor's

name

name; I have been often prevented from assisting the unfortunate by the apprehension of being too highly praised for the same, while others might justly imagine that there was ostentation in my favors. I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

A Friend to another—by Way of Apology for not Writing.

DEAR SIR,

YOU are offended because I do not frequently write, but consider, I must write *upon* something as well as paper, a repetition of one thing can afford but little pleasure, and as I wish to avoid sameness, which is always insipid, I had rather tarry for some news than impose upon the patience of my friend.

If order be necessary, so also is *variety*; without this the soul languishes, for things that are alike seem to her to be the same; history pleases us from the variety of its accounts; romance from its variety of prodigies; and theatrical pieces from the variety of passions which they excite. A long uniformity makes every thing insupportable: the same order of periods long continued wearies in an harangue. The same number, and the same cadence tire one in a long poem. He who should live for any length of time on the Alps must certainly descend at last disgusted with the finest situation and most delightful prospects.

Some things, by good management, seem to have great variety which have not, and on the other hand, some by want of skill or judgment, appear uniform which have great variety. For a corroboration of this, behold several of our buildings, how many by confused ornaments which display no taste, fatigue the eye, and meet our disapprobation; it being impossible to distinguish one ornament from another, their number being so great, that the eye cannot possibly repose on any of them, so that these buildings displease through the very means that were chosen to render them agreeable. While others imitating the Grecian architecture, seem uniform, yet contain such necessary divisions that the eye may discern every thing without fatigue, and yet pleasure, there being sufficient to keep it employed, consequently seeming to have great variety.

The soul loves variety (as the ingenious Montesequieu informs us) but she loves only as far as it tends to knowledge and discovery; for she must see and variety must not prevent her seeing, that is, a thing must be simple enough to be seen and have variety enough to be seen with pleasure.

This being the first time, I have written to my friend on

the subject of variety, I hope variety will be sufficiently displayed, but were I to resume my pen, and repeat the same topic, then I confess there would be no *variety in it*. I am, &c.

To a Lady in commendation of her Style of Writing.

THOUGH my dear Harriot's presence always gives me inexpressible happiness, yet the letter I have received from her convinces me that I shall derive much pleasure from her absence, if she will honor me with a continuance of her correspondence, besides, I shall be often tempted to disagree in opinion with my friend for the sake of reading her ingenious arguments; likewise to offend now-and-then in order to be rebuked with so much pleasantry and good humour. I need only refer you to your last favor, to convince you that in this declaration, I pay you no empty compliment, it was so replete with wit, that had it been so obliging, I must have been delighted, and at the same time so very courteous, that I must have been charmed had it been less witty.

The beauties of your mind so enhance your personal qualifications, that I am now become yours more than ever, and have proved wholly what I thought impossible, that the esteem I had for you could receive any addition. I must ingenuously confess that once in my life, I have been made happy by your absence, and that then I read over your charming epistle, I make a doubt of what before I ever confidently believed that I could not receive a greater satisfaction than that of seeing you, and hearing you speak, for which, however, I wait with the greatest impatience; but till when, hope to be honored with a continuance of your favor, which, according to the best of my feeble abilities, shall be always duly answered by, Your obliged servant, &c.

To a young Person recommending Silence in Company.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH a turn for conversation founded on useful and experimental knowledge is highly serviceable and entertaining, yet it is a great evidence of good sense and understanding to know when to be silent, as well as when to speak. A well governed taciturnity is the first step of wisdom, the nurse of peace, and the guardian of virtue. A multiplicity of words serve but to ruffle and discompose the mind as well as betray it into a thousand vanities. We ought cautiously to withhold our opinion on subjects which we are not well acquainted with or that may be offensive to our company; in short, it is infinitely more commendable to say a little to the purpose than a great deal that is vague, foreign and impertinent.

CARDS, OR NOTES OF COMPLIMENT.

LORD B— requests the pleasure of Mr. F—'s company this evening to join him, and other friends at the Opera House.

Tuesday morning.

Mr. F—'s most respectful compliments to Lord B—, is very sorry he is already engaged on a similar occasion.

Tuesday 1 o'Clock.

Mr. AIRY presents his best compliments to Miss Watson, requests the honor of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

Thursday Afternoon.

Miss WATSON returns thanks to Mr. Airy for his polite offer which she is very sorry she cannot accept, having already engaged herself.

Thursday 5 o'Clock.

Miss H—'s respectful compliments to Lady W—, entreats the honor of her company this afternoon to tea and coffee.

10 o'Clock, Morning.

Lady W—'s compliments to Miss H—, is happy to accept her polite invitation.

11 o'Clock, Morning.

Mrs. WILLIAMS's compliments to Mrs. Hartley and the young ladies, hopes they have got safe home, and are perfectly recovered from the fatigue of last night.

Wednesday.

Mrs. and Miss HARTLEY's returns thanks to Mrs. Williams for her kind enquiries—returned home perfectly safe and are all well—Sally excepted, who has got a slight cold.

Wednesday.

Miss WILMOT's compliments to Miss Harcourt, requests the pleasure of her company to dinner next Sunday—Dinner to be on the table at four o'clock.

Friday.

Miss HARCOURT's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Wilmot.

Friday.

Lord L— requests the pleasure of Sir John P—'s company to Kew for an airing—the chariot to be at the door at three.

Saturday Noon.

Sir JOHN P—'s respectful compliments to Lord L— will be happy to attend his lordship punctually at the time.

*** All Cards of Compliment should be confined to one subject, expressed with ease, elegance, and brevity.

TABLE OF CONTENTS,

WHICH WILL ENABLE ALL READERS TO FIND OUT
ANY PARTICULAR LETTER, &c. WANTED.

An elegant Frontispiece facing the Title Page.

PREFACE - - -	P. 2	From an Uncle to his Nephew	P. 17
General Instructions for Writing Letters - - -	3	From a young Merchant to a Wholesale Dealer - - -	18
LETTERS ON EDUCATION, FOR SCHOOLS, &c. &c.		The Wholesale Dealer's Answer	ib.
Letter from a Friend to another in the Country - - -	5	From a Tradesman to another for Money - - -	19
The Friend's Answer - - -	ib.	The Tradesman's Answer	ib.
The Reply, returning Thanks	6	From a Retail Dealer to a Wholesale one - - -	ib.
From a Lady to her Friend in the Country - - -	ib.	The Wholesale Dealer's Reply	ib.
The Friend's Answer - - -	7	From the Wholesale Dealer to a Retail one - - -	20
The Lady's Reply - - -	ib.	The Retail Dealer's Answer	ib.
From a Son to his Father - - -	ib.	The Wholesale Dealer's Reply	ib.
The Father's Answer - - -	ib.	From a Tradesman to a Relation	ib.
From the Son to the Father, requesting Leave to see him	8	The Relation's Answer - - -	21
The Father's Answer - - -	ib.	From a Tradesman to another	ib.
From a Daughter to her Mother	ib.	The Answer - - -	ib.
The Mother's Answer - - -	9	Reply to the foregoing Answer	ib.
From a Tradesman to his Son, at School - - -	10	From a Tradesman to a Friend	22
The Son's Answer - - -	ib.	The Friend's Apology	ib.
The Father to his Son, when bound - - -	ib.	From the Tradesman to another Friend - - -	ib.
The Son's Answer - - -	11	The Friend's Apology - - -	ib.
From a Preceptor to his Scholar, during Vacation Time - - -	ib.	From a Country Tradesman to a London Dealer - - -	ib.
The Scholar's Answer - - -	12	The London Dealer's Answer	23
The Preceptor's Reply - - -	13	From a Merchant's Clerk to his Master	ib.
From a Brother to his Sister	ib.	From the Master to his Clerk	ib.
The Sister's Answer - - -	ib.	From a Tenant to a Landlord	ib.
From a Son at School, to his Father - - -	14	The Landlord's Answer	24
The Father's Answer - - -	ib.	From a Friend to another	ib.
The Son, in Reply - - -	ib.	The Friend's Answer - - -	ib.
The Father, in Reply	15	From a young Seaman to a Relation	ib.
From a Daughter to her Mother	ib.	The Relation's Answer	25
The Mother's Answer - - -	ib.	From a Friend to another	ib.
From a Father to a School mistress	16	From the Friend to another, on not receiving Money promised	ib.
LETTERS ON BUSINESS, FAMILY AFFAIRS, &c.		Apology to a Person wanting Money	ib.
From an Apprentice to his Father	ib.	From a Servant's late Master to a Gentleman - - -	26
The Father's Answer - - -	ib.	Another on the same Occasion	ib.
From a Father to an idle Son	ib.	To a Lady for a Servant's Character	ib.
The Son's Answer - - -	17	The Lady's Answer - - -	ib.
From a Master to his Apprentice's Father - - -	ib.	To a Lady on a similar Occasion	ib.
		The Lady's Answer	27

To a Gentleman for a Servant's Character	P. 27	From a Gentleman to another, relative to a bad servant	P. 42
The Gentleman's Answer	ib.	The Gentleman's Answer	ib.
To a Friend, 'on Breach of Promise	ib.	LETTERS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE, &c.	
The Friend's Answer	ib.	Reprimand from a Father to his Son, on an imprudent Connection	43
To a Nephew going abroad	ib.	The Son's Answer	ib.
The Nephew's Answer	28	From a daughter to her Father dis- closing a Proposal of Marriage	44
From a Nephew asking Advice	ib.	The Father's Answer	45
The Uncle's Answer	ib.	From a Lover to the Object of his Affection	ib.
The Nephew's Reply	29	The young Lady's Answer	46
The Uncle's Reply	30	From a Bachelor to a married Friend	ib.
From a Quaker to his Friend	ib.	The Friend's Answer	47
The Quaker's Answer	ib.	From a Friend to another, advising him to marry	48
From a Tradesman retiring from Business	ib.	The Friend's Answer	49
The Friend's Answer	ib.	From a young Man suddenly cap- tivated at the Play House	51
From a Creditor to a Debtor	31	From the Lady's Father	ib.
The Debtor's Answer	ib.	From a Lover to a Father on his Attachment to the Daughter	ib.
The Debtor's Wife's Answer	ib.	The Father's Answer	52
From a Wholesale Dealer to a Country Shopkeeper	ib.	A different Reply	ib.
From an embarrassed Tradesman to a Creditor	32	From the same	ib.
The Creditor's Answer	ib.	From a young Lady to a Gentle- man introduced by her Father	ib.
From a Country Shopkeeper to a London Merchant	ib.	From the above Lady's secret Lover	53
The Merchant's Answer	ib.	The Lady's Answer	ib.
An anonymous Letter to a Trade- man	33	From a young Lady to her Father, on a Proposal of Marriage	54
From a Master to his Clerk	ib.	From the Father in Answer	ib.
From an Apothecary to his Friend	ib.	From a jealous Lover to his Mistress	55
The Friend's Answer	34	The Lady's Answer	ib.
From a Clergyman to another	ib.	From a Lover to his Mistress's Aunt requesting her Intercession	ib.
The Clergyman's Answer	35	The Aunt's Answer	56
From a Father to a run-away Ap- prentice	ib.	From a modest Lover to his Mistress	ib.
The Son's Answer	36	The Lady's Answer	57
A Father to his Son commencing business	ib.	From an Aunt to her Niece, dis- approving of her Choice	ib.
The Son's Answer	36	The Niece's Answer	58
A Merchant to another requesting the Character of a Clerk	39	From a young Lady's Friend to a disagreeable Suitor	ib.
The Merchant's Answer	ib.	From a Ward to her Guardian against compulsive Marriage	59
From a Tradesman to another de- manding a debt	ib.	From a late Lover to a Lady	ib.
The Tradesman's Answer	ib.	From a late Lover to a Coquette	60
From a Friend to another relative to a Sale	40	The Lady's Answer	ib.
The Friend's Answer	ib.		
From a Nephew to his Uncle wanting a Commission	ib.		
The Uncle's Answer	ib.		
The Nephew's Reply	41		
The Uncle's Reply	42		

From a young Lady to an old Suitor	61	A Recommendation of an Author to a Man of Rank and Influence	79
From a Lover after receiving wounds in Battle to his Mistress	ib.	From an Uncle to his Nephew on Dr. Is	ib.
The young Lady's Answer	62	From a Friend to another in Confinement for Debt	ib.
From a young Lady after the Small-pox to her Lover	ib.	From a Cousin to another on making and breaking Promises	83
The Lover's Answer	ib.	From an elder Brother to the Younger on Habits	ib.
From a young Lady to her Seducer	63	From a young Lady to a Gentleman	82
The Seducer's Wife's Answer	ib.	The Gentleman's Answer	ib.
The Answer	64	Recommending a Relation to a Gentleman of Rank	83
From a Suitor to his Father relating his ill Success	ib.	The Gentleman's Answer	ib.
The Father's Answer	65	Recommending a Son to an intimate Friend	ib.
From a rich Lover to a young Lady without Fortune	66	The Friend's Answer	ib.
The young Lady's Answer	ib.	From a Friend to another on Law-Suits	ib.
From a young Lady to a Friend whose Lover was false	67	From the same in Continuation	84
From a Friend to a foolish Lover	ib.	A Lady to her Friend raising a Subscription for a distressed Person	ib.
From a Friend to a Lover on the Imprudence of his Choice	68	The Friend's Answer	85
From a Wit to his Mistress	69	A Friend to another on Peevishness	ib.
From a Husband to his Friend on the Extravagance of his Wife	70	The same to the same on Anger	ib.
The Friend's Answer	ib.	A Lady to her Friend on the Fondness of married People before Friends	86
From a Lady just married to her Friend	71	From a plain Gentleman to a ceremonious Friend	ib.
A congratulating Answer	72	A humorous Letter from a Friend to another upon Wishes	ib.
From a Clergyman to a new married Couple	ib.	A humorous Letter in Answer	87
From a humorous Lover to his Fair One	80	From a Man who had gone aboard a Vessel to his Friend	ib.
LETTERS ON MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS: VIZ. — Friendship, Solitude, Dress, Pride, the Value of Time, Breach of Promise, on adopting good and bad Habits, Law, Ceremony, and on various other Circumstances in Life.		From a Man who had enlisted, to his Friend	88
		The Friend's Answer	ib.
		From a Gentleman to a Female Relation on Chastity	89
		A Clergyman to a Gentleman of Rank in behalf of poor Suppliants	90
		The Gentleman's Answer	ib.
		A Friend to another by way of Apology for not Writing	91
		To a Lady in Commendation of her Style of Writing	92
		To a young Person recommending Silence in Company	ib.
		Cards or Notes of Compliment	93
From an Uncle to his Nephew on Friendship	74		
From a Student to his Friend	75		
An Ironical Letter to a Slanderer	76		
From a Friend to another on Time	ib.		
A Challenge	77		
The Answer	ib.		
From a Lady to her Friend on Solitude	78		
From a Friend to another on Pride and Epitaphs	ib.		

THE END.

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